









# RSPCA's biggest bequest contested by widow cut out of the will

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE RSPCA is being challenged in court by the widow of an Australian businessman who decided to leave £8 million to the charity days before his death.

Leon D. Richardson, a dog-lover and well-known financial commentator who had survived kidnapping, atomic bomb tests and

corruption charges, rewrote his will nine days before dying of a heart attack in Hong Kong in May 1995, aged 77.

Margie Richardson, 76, his wife of 40 years, from whom he had separated in 1994, launched a legal action in the Hong Kong High Court yesterday over her late husband's fortune.

Mrs Richardson contends that her husband was suffering from

"morbid jealousy" and was of unsound mind when he scrapped his original will, in which everything was left to her.

According to Mrs Richardson's writ, her husband's delusions led him to accuse her of infidelity and claims that she hired gangsters to kill him. The writ says that Mr Richardson expressed the view in a letter dated February 24, 1995, that she had behaved with "infamous,

heinous, sinning, fiend-like, immoral depravity".

Yesterday John Scott, QC, for Mrs Richardson, said that the couple had enjoyed a deeply loving relationship but Mr Richardson began to suffer from "morbid jealousy" in the last months of his life. Letters written by Mr Richardson to relatives "showed quite clearly this poor man to have been a lonely, paranoid and delusional

soul at the end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995", Mr Scott told the court.

Michael Thomas, QC, for the executors of the will, denied that Mr Richardson was suffering from any mental disability when he signed the will. Friends and colleagues of the businessman say he had suffered from a chronic heart condition and was under stress from the recent break-up with his

wife when he died. Mrs Richardson had received more than £2 million from her husband after they parted.

According to the RSPCA yesterday, Mr Richardson kept Newfoundland dogs and a poodle which he timed with a pink rinse.

A spokeswoman said: "If we were to receive the whole £8 million, then I think it would be a big legacy ever. It would be a

marvellous thing for animal welfare in the UK and abroad... and would cover the cost, for instance, of running just one of our seven animal hospitals for eight years."

The RSPCA spends some £40 million a year in running investigations, mounting prosecutions, in veterinary treatment and in housing sick animals.

The case is expected to last ten days.

## Rapist who plotted against celebrities is sent to Rampton

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A WOMAN-hating psychopath who planned to stalk and rob famous women, including the actress Fiona Fullerton, was sent yesterday to Rampton high-security mental hospital indefinitely.

Rodney Barnes, 31, who became known as the Mayfair Rapist, raped a West End croupier and robbed seven women at gunpoint during a six-week period beginning on his thirtieth birthday in March last year. Police found a list of 30 targets including Miss Fullerton, star of the television series *The Charmer*, as well as the former wife of a comedian and other women celebrities he had traced through electoral registers.

When caught on May 14, he told police the robberies were "a game plan" to raise money for a real gun so he could murder his former wife, mother, former mother-in-law, and stepmother.

Barnes, from South Ockendon, Essex, suffered from a psychopathic disorder and a schizophrenic-related condition, the Old Bailey was told. A Rampton psychiatrist described him as "one of the most dangerous men I have seen in my professional career". Barnes was being



Barnes: "game plan" was four murders

hunted by eight police forces while he targeted lone women living around the M25. Driving a stolen car, he threatened them with an air pistol that resembled a real firearm.

He admitted 15 offences including rape, kidnap, indecent assault, seven robberies, theft and firearms possession. His victims sat in the public gallery as Judge Boal, QC, was told that the 32-year-old Mayfair croupier tried to commit suicide after her four-hour ordeal, in which she was kidnapped in a Mayfair car park, driven around London in her own car, forced to have sex without a condom and to wash away the evidence.

Ten days later he tricked his

way into a Finnish businesswoman's hotel room in central London, forced her to strip and told her: "I'm going to rape you" before she screamed and he fled. Other robberies were carried out in Weybridge, Surrey; Ilford, Essex; and Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. Police found a list of potential victims in Bournemouth, London, Berkshire and Manchester, where his former wife lived after escaping from their violent marriage.

He showed little remorse, the court was told, and objected to the presence of a woman police officer. He complained of hearing voices in his head during the robberies and of being in a trance-like state. Judge Boal said: "You struck terror into the hearts of your victims and no doubt put countless other women in fear of becoming your next victim. The medical and emotional consequences on some of your victims is incalculable."

Detective Inspector David Hills, of the Central London major investigation pool, said Barnes had got "reasonably close" to Miss Fullerton and to other women on his list. "Had he had the time, I think he would have got round to them," he said.

A spokesman for Miss Fullerton, 40, said last night: "She was aware of this man at the time. She is delighted that he has been put behind bars and is no longer a danger."

Barnes's stepmother, Drusilla Smith, 53, said he could never accept his mother walking out on him when he was six months old. "When he was 18 he tracked her down, but she still didn't want to know. He has used this as his excuse over the years, but there comes a point when you can't carry on blaming your early life for what you are getting up to," she said.



George shared a bed with Brandon in squats

## Musician sues Boy George over gay sex claim

By A STAFF REPORTER

ROCK musician Kirk Brandon admitted in court yesterday that he shared a bed with Boy George — who he knew fancied him — but denied the homosexual singer ever made a pass at him.

Brandon, who married his Danish wife two years ago and has a baby daughter, said he had slept with the former Culture Club singer at various squats, when he could not get home after a night's clubbing in the early 1980s.

However, George (real name George O'Dowd), who dressed and behaved as an effeminate homosexual at the time, never laid a hand on him. At the High Court, George's counsel, Patrick Moloney, suggested the blond frontman of Spear of Destiny and Theatre of Hate "crossed the line" in this relationship and engaged in homosexual activity with someone he thought of almost as a girl. "I suggest that when you were in bed with Boy George, various homosexual acts took place," Mr Moloney said.

Mr Brandon replied: "I



Kirk Brandon with his wife Christina and their daughter yesterday

would take this moment to categorically deny every single one of those."

Mr Moloney said: "Furthermore, certainly when you were with Mr O'Dowd's friends, if not yours, the two of you behaved in an affectionate manner, embracing, holding hands, as two homosexual lovers would."

Mr Brandon replied: "I would say no to that, sir." He told Mr Justice Douglas Brown that the alleged affair, detailed in George's 1995 autobiography, *Take It Like A Man*, was "a total lie".

Mr Brandon, 40, of East Dulwich, southeast London, is suing Boy George, book publishers Sidgwick and Jackson, Virgin Records and

EMI Virgin Music for malicious falsehood over the book and a CD, *Cheapsness and Beauty*, which contained a song about him entitled *Unfinished Business*.

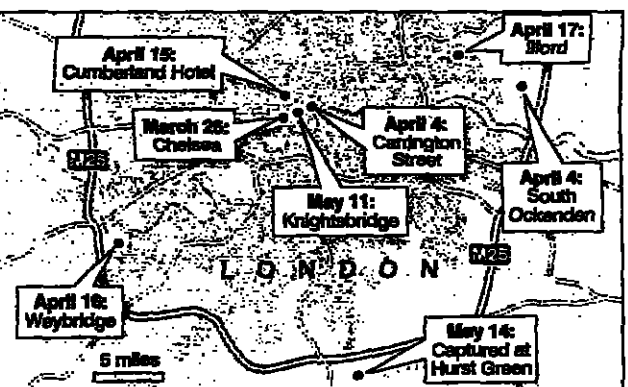
He says they damaged his family and business associates at a crucial stage in his career, when he was trying to get back to the top after two years of illness.

Mr Brandon said that when he first met George at The Blitz club in 1980, before he became famous, he thought he was "very strange". It was clear he was a homosexual who liked wearing women's makeup and outrageous clothes. Mr Moloney showed the court photographs in which Mr Brandon and

George were lying together on a bed "having a cuddle".

He said he believed that George had tried to "out" him as a homosexual in revenge for his imagined rejection and as a strategy to boost sales of his book and CD. "Unbeknown to me, in the midst of his wealth, his obsession for me turned into something bitter, some might call it evil, a grudge. He believed I had dumped him. Perhaps because of his drug problems, or whatever, his hatred focused on me... some years later revenge became a cleverly calculated possibility. He wrote his book and wrote of the relationship he really imagined he had had."

The hearing continues.



## Injury time in race with Robbie Fowler

By A STAFF REPORTER

A TAXI driver broke both arms when he ran into a wall at the end of a school's fun race for fathers that also involved Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England footballer. Brian Comer, 39, denied he desperately tried to beat the star forward and lost control.

Mr Comer is suing the governors of St Patrick's RC Primary School, Toxteth, Liverpool, for damages, alleging negligence. Adrian Lyon, for the prosecution, claimed yesterday that there was no track and no finishing line and the school owed a duty of care to Mr Comer.

Mr Fowler told the court he

was an old boy of the school which his younger brother and cousins attended. He said he had been invited to take part in the race on July 14, 1994, and agreed as a bit of fun.

He said he wanted to win but slipped at the start and finished by running up the wall at the finish, which he thought was the finishing line.

Asked by the judge whether he thought the other fathers were keen to beat him, Mr Fowler said: "No one said anything about someone especially wanting to win the race."

The case continues.

## Father beat up child molester

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN ANGRY father who bit off the earlobe of a man who molested his 10-year-old daughter wept as he walked free from court yesterday.

The 40-year-old stormed round to John Wane's home, swore at him and repeatedly kicked and punched him in the head and body, knocking him unconscious.

As Wane lay motionless on the floor, his attacker, described in court as an "exemplary and hard-working" employee, chewed off his earlobe and spat it into a fireplace. Later he told police: "He had been interfering with my daughter. I will kill him."

Wane, of Stalybridge, Greater Manchester, suffered a broken nose and shoulder, and extensive bruising. He

needed plastic surgery on his ear.

Wane, 41, had groped the girl while he was drunk. Earlier this month Wane was jailed for 12 months for indecent assault after forcing the girl to relieve her ordeal in the witness box. At Manchester Crown Court yesterday the girl's father — who cannot be named to protect her identity — pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm and sobbed as he was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence.

Judge Timothy Mort told him: "It is difficult to know what the reaction of a parent might be in such circumstances. Were I to deprive you of your liberty that little girl would suffer the trauma of not

only the attack and the ordeal of having to relive it in the witness box, but also to find her father had gone to jail."

"The extreme provocation of this incident make these circumstances wholly exceptional," he added.

Earlier the court was told that the girl was the man's only surviving child.

John Chaplin, for the prosecution, said Wane indecently assaulted the youngster last September after drinking in pubs in Stalybridge all day.

Mark Benson, for the defence, said: "This was extreme provocation involving a man acting out of emotional anger and distress. He acted out of character and he is ashamed of his behaviour and accepts it was wrong."

## Judge asks victim to remove make-up

By PAUL WILKINSON

A JUDGE halted a court case so that a young mother could remove her make-up to show the scars from a beating by a former boyfriend.

Judge Grills then awarded £5,000 damages to Amanda Barrett, 29, who is too embarrassed to leave the home without carefully masking the results of the assault. After changing his spectacles to have a close look at the injuries, the judge told her: "I am surprised just how bad the scars are after seeing you without any make-up."

"I accept that the scars can be covered up with make-up, but we pass this way just once and the fact is she will always

carry them. For a young woman this is of considerable significance."

He had ordered an 'ad-journment in her claim for pain and trauma at York County Court, so that she could remove her lipstick, foundation, blusher, eye shadow and mascara.

Mark Rogers, 25, a kitchen fitter, attacked her in her York home in March 1995, as her two children slept upstairs. In March last year, he was given 120 hours' community service for assault and criminal damage. He was then ordered to pay £200 compensation for smashing her stereo system and £250 for her injuries.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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# Management ethic 'is driving young doctors to despair'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS believe they are being turned into "technical monkeys" by clipboard-toting managers more interested in number crunching than the health of patients, according to a damning study of the health service for the British Medical Association.

Unrealistic demands and a culture of complaint inspired by the Patient's Charter were found to be causing stress and burnout. Nurses were often regarded as "the enemy", while poor housekeeping meant doctors were required to clean floors, wheel patients to the front door or run around trying to find batteries for equipment.

The survey, written by Isobel Allen of the Policy Studies Institute, concentrated on consultants, general practitioners and junior doctors aged under 40. It found the stress of constantly being "bleeped" and of being required to meet management targets meant that most were already planning an early retirement.

The report says: "There was repeated evidence that for many of them their commitment to patients was the only factor which was preventing

them from leaving medicine." Even the doctors' traditional spirit of inquiry was disappearing. "The younger generation of doctors are so occupied in routine aspects of the practice of medicine and the external requirements that now surround it that they are perhaps unable to lift their heads above the routine in the way previous generations did."

Doctors' problems stemmed largely from increasingly intrusive and aggressive management, which meant speeding up consultations and seeing more patients. "Many comment that their professional judgment and practice were being challenged by administrators with little conception of the level and type of patient care that doctors are trying to deliver."

Increasing demands by "managers with clipboards" meant "their ability to provide caring and compassionate medicine was being constantly eroded by management's demands on them to maintain throughput and numbers and to account for their time."

The intrusive management, however, failed to provide good working conditions. "In-

adequate accommodation, dirty towels, uncleaned rooms and no hot meals amounted to a failure of organisational housekeeping."

Far more serious were failures "of ill-maintained or failing equipment, demarcation disputes between medical and non-medical staff concerning vital support services to patients, and inappropriate use of skilled medical personnel on tasks which required a much lower level of skill". The report also found a breakdown in co-operation between medical and nursing staff.

The survey does not represent BMA policy but it crystallises feelings of younger doctors working in hospitals and practices all around the country. It involved creating small discussion groups of doctors drawn from a random sample of the BMA's database, based on age, sex and grade in the health service.



Indy the tiger visits Molly Ladbrook-Hutt in Guy's Hospital. "The week before we had rabbits," Molly said

## Tiger ousts rabbit as pet treatment on the ward

By TIM JONES

TOYS, books and puzzles help to keep sick children amused but they cannot compare with a visit from a tiger.

The introduction of Indy, a five-month-old Bengal tiger, to the children's unit at Guy's Hospital, southeast London, marks a new stage in pet therapy.

Accompanied by Giles Clark, its keeper, Indy, who has been hand reared, behaved impeccably as it rested its front paws on the beds and gazed at young admirers.

Molly Ladbrook-Hutt, 13, who has been at Guy's for more than five weeks, said: "The week before we had rabbits so the tiger was fantastic. It was so exciting and made me feel better."

The visit was instigated by Melinda Edwards, the principal child psychologist, who is a great believer in pet therapy. She said: "I expected a flopped bunny or a little dog, not a baby tiger. It is an exceptional treat for the children, not to mention the staff, to get that close to such an exotic animal."

## Hospital building plan 'could harm NHS'

By IAN MURRAY

THE National Health Service will shrink and be unable to provide a comprehensive range of treatments as a direct result of government efforts to attract private funding to build hospitals, according to the *British Medical Journal*.

The report forecasts reductions of 26 per cent of beds in England and 30 per cent in Scotland over the next five years. "The Government has set great store on increasing activity as a performance measure of more patients treated and shorter waiting times. The bed reductions proposed here will reduce the level of activity," Dr Allyson Pollock, of St George's Hospital Medical School, writes in this week's issue.

Dr Pollock investigated 17 first-wave hospital schemes funded by the Private Finance Initiative on behalf of the NHS Consultants' Association, the Radical Statistics Health Group and the NHS Support Federation.

Under the initiative NHS trusts invite private contractors to meet "output specification", defined not by the number of beds needed but the expected level of clinical activity. Once the contractor has been selected there could be further bed reductions. The contractor, having bought the site from the NHS, can make other use of areas not needed to fulfill its contract.

The report said that because of the failure of the private plans to consider the impact of the closure of smaller hospitals the total number of beds lost had been underestimated.

## Psychiatric care close to collapse, says report

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MENTAL health services are on the point of collapse in some parts of the country and the community care policy is in danger of falling apart, according to the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

In a report published yesterday the college said that the 50 per cent decrease in the number of psychiatric beds in the past 15 years had not been matched by an increase in services to cope with patients no longer in hospital care. It said that provision of beds to provide long-term care for very dependent mentally ill people and staff shortages meant that proven therapies were not widely available.

The college blames "a fundamental failure in the development and implementation of mental health policies" for the crisis. While supporting the principles of community care, the college said that a widespread failure of health and local authorities to develop joint plans to implement the policy had put the system under intolerable pressure.

The report said that 12 per cent of men and 18 per cent of women had clinically significant psychiatric problems, and 100 million working days a year were lost through mental health-related causes. The financial burden of this, the 5,000 suicides a year, and the high cost of inquiries into homicides by mentally disordered people needed to be seen against the need to restore the resources "that quietly leached away into other parts of the NHS in the early 1990s".

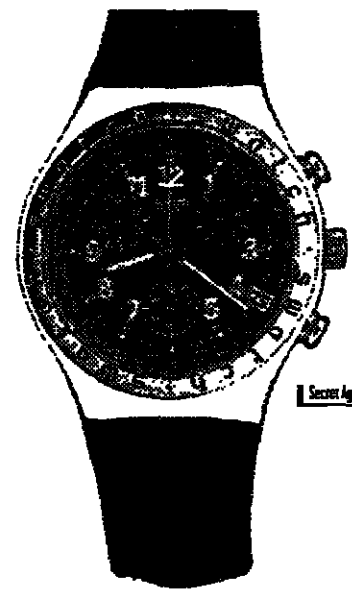
## Eye implants can save sight of Aids patients

AN IMPLANT placed inside the eye can save the sight of Aids patients with a common infection. (Nigel Hawkes writes). By releasing drugs slowly and in the right place, the Vitrasert implant controls eye infections caused by cytomegalovirus, which affect up to 40 per cent of Aids patients.

Dr Bal Dhillon, consultant ophthalmologist at the Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary,

believes the implant could be used to treat common eye conditions such as macular degeneration — the commonest cause of blindness in the elderly — and diabetic retinopathy, blindness caused by diabetes. "In any chronic disease of the back of the eye, getting the drug to the right place is the key," he said.

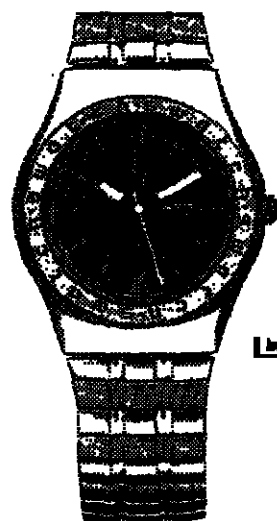
"Drops work for the front of the eye but for the retina we either have to inject the drug into the eye or dose the entire patient, which can have side-effects. The operation normally takes less than an hour and patients generally return home the same day."



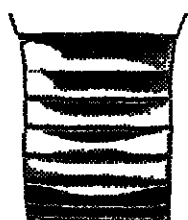
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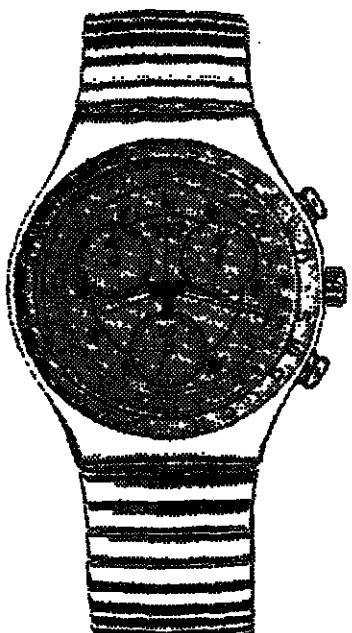
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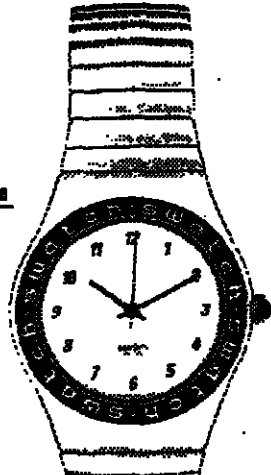
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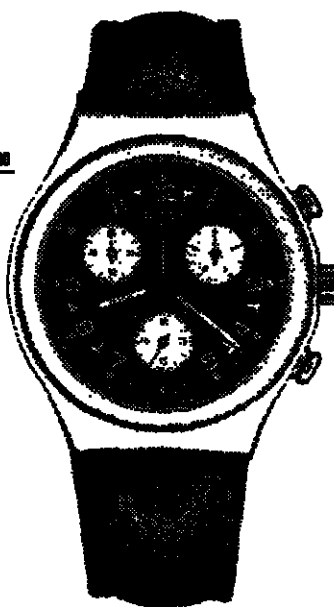
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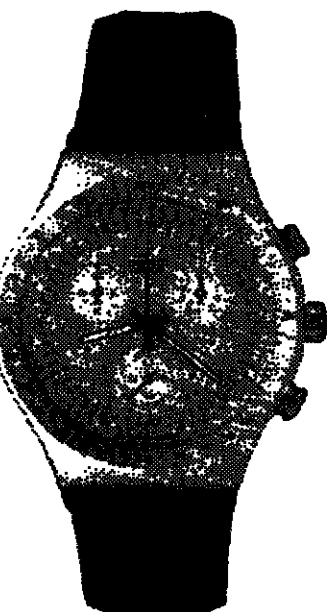
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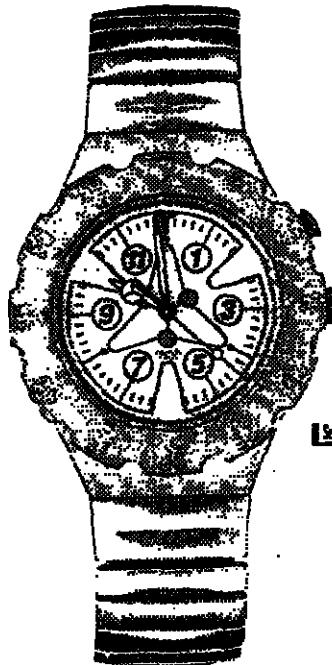
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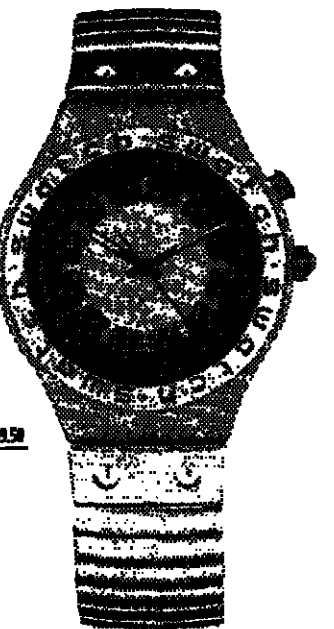
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# Chocolate carrot could help tomorrow's adults beat cancer

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHOCOLATE-flavoured carrots went on sale yesterday as part of a drive to turn the vegetable-resistant children of today into the cancer-resistant adults of tomorrow.

Backed by the Cancer Research Campaign and packed by Iceland Foods, the carrots are aimed at the choosy palates of children who refuse to eat vegetables and thus fail to absorb enough vitamin C to help to provide protection against cancer in later life. The range also includes cheese-and-onion cauliflower, pizza-flavoured sweetcorn and peas that taste like baked beans.

They have been tested and approved by panels of children aged five to thirteen in Wales and the North West. The tasters rejected bubble-gum broccoli, toffee-apple sweetcorn and prawn-cocktail cauliflower but a second generation of the Wacky Veg range will be launched in June for children who are not tempted by the first offerings. The idea came from Professor Gordon McVie, Director-General

of the cancer campaign, after a University of Strathclyde study showed that, increasingly, mothers were not bothering to cook vegetables for children, who also refuse to eat them in school canteens.

The only day in the year when children eat enough vegetables was Christmas, he said, when they were part of a festive meal cooked with more care and served with more sauces. "For me, it is an experiment in changing behaviour patterns. It is a humorous experiment and

certainly wacky but it is in no way frivolous," he added.

"Health professionals can tell people to stop smoking, or to use strong sun cream protection but the advice is often ignored. It is the same with vegetables. A third of cancers are due to diet and the first hurdle is to get children to eat any vegetable at all.

"Every parent knows that fresh fruit and vegetables are good for children but they just don't serve them. Children are cocking their noses up at the advice, so what can we do to

get them to alter their eating patterns? I thought of all the supermarket aisles packed with different-flavour crisps, and thought that if children liked eating potatoes in this way, it might be possible with other vegetables.

The challenge was taken up two months ago by Malcolm Walker, chairman of Iceland, who admitted he originally thought it would be no more than a good PR stunt. "In fact it is turning out to be a very serious business indeed," he said. "We have made tons of

them and this is going to be a big seller. We expect to turn over around £500,000 in the next three months. These flavours may sound revolting to adults, but children like them.

"Chefs like Nico may be a bit sniffy but that has nothing to do with it. Adults usually aren't thrilled by what their children eat but if this gets them to eat their vegetables I don't see it as a great problem. It is better to eat good vegetables tasting of chocolate than not to eat vegetables at all."

The range sells at 99p for a 1lb bag compared with £1.29 for carrot-flavoured carrots. "We think the pricing is right and affordable for parents who care about children's health," Mr Walker said.

Two techniques have been used for the flavours: the carrots and sweetcorn come with granules of the flavour mixed with the vegetables, while the cauliflower and peas are coated with a seasoned sauce. Iceland says the frozen vegetables retain all their vitamin C, while fresh ones lose it rapidly after picking.

Leading article, page 23



Christopher Coates, 3, conducts his own trial at Shenley Fields Nursery School in Birmingham

## It's out of this world, says young test panel

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

WHAT, my son James wanted to know, are these chocolate carrots for? "Are they for people in space?"

Quite. But he judged them "really nice". "It's just like having hot drinking chocolate. I can taste the carrots though. They seem really delicious, not like the carrots you give us."

That seemed to be the vital ingredient for James, 11, and his brother Charles, 6, although the latter was not so convinced. Nor was he too keen on the baked bean-flavoured peas. "You know I don't like peas, and I don't like baked beans either."

Courageously, James pushed spoonfuls into his mouth and beamed. "It's just like peas with baked bean sauce. But I think it would have been better if they had just used tomato sauce."

He summed up: "I think they are very nice, but don't bother to get any more. I couldn't eat them with anything else. Who would eat this chocolate stuff with chicken or lamb chops?"

## Crime against taste, say chefs

LEADING chefs' reactions to the child-friendly vegetables ranged from disbelief to sadness.

Marco Pierre White, a father of three who runs The Restaurant Marco Pierre White at the Hyde Park Hotel, a Michelin three-star establishment, said: "Not wishing to comment says everything about these products. I think it is better to bribe children than this — say they

can go to the park if they eat their food. These products will destroy children's future eating habits."

Nico Ladenis, of the Michelin three-star Chez Nico at 90 Park Lane, who has two grown-up daughters, said: "I cannot conceive of chocolate going with carrots but if they have to use weird combinations they are doing it the wrong way. The colour alone must be horrid: people eat

with the eye, it's the first sense. I don't know how children would be attracted to such a messy thing."

Albert Roux, chef of the Michelin two-star Le Gavroche, who has two children and two grandchildren, said: "It is criminal to do this to children's palates. If you want a child to eat vegetables you have to talk to them about flavour. They must identify the flavour of each vegetable."

# "Because it meowed too much."



This was the "excuse" the owner gave for trying to drown his cat.

It meowed too much. He'd thought of giving the cat to a friend, but decided it would be "less hassle" to drown it.

So he put it in a basket and threw it from a bridge into the local canal.

The basket hit the bridge wall and burst open, allowing the cat to escape.

From the basket, that is.

It managed to swim for more

than half an hour in the freezing water, during which time it meowed quite a lot.

It was finally rescued and taken to an RSPCA hospital, where it was treated for exhaustion, shock and fluid on the lungs.

It died a week later. The owner was fined £300 and given a 3 year conditional discharge.

Astonishingly, he was not banned from keeping animals and now owns another cat.

Despite this kind of disappointment, the RSPCA never gives up.

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## Council may dye canal to restore colour to fishing

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S oldest canal is to be dyed khaki or blue in an attempt to protect the fish from being plundered by cormorants before anglers have a chance to catch them.

Exeter City Council has devised the scheme because of growing complaints by fishermen who say the clarity of the water in the Exeter Ship Canal is spoiling their sport.

Jack Nott, the council's river and canal manager, said: "We are looking at using natural dyes to put in the canal on days before angling matches. This could make it easier for the anglers to catch fish and deter cormorants by making it harder for the birds to see their prey."

Until the 1960s coasters regularly used the canal, stirring up sediment and keeping the water muddy. Nowadays the water is crystal clear during winter, which has increased the number of fish being taken by cormorants.

Martin Rich, chairman of the council's leisure committee, said: "We have tried various other ways of increasing turbidity, such as dragging chains along the bottom of the canal and letting in muddy water from the nearby River Exe, but the effects were short-lived. The plan is to try the dyes out on a two-mile stretch of the canal most used by anglers but we still need to get approval from English Nature and other environ-

mental bodies because the canal flows through a site of special scientific interest."

Anglers said yesterday that more drastic action was needed to control cormorants. Paul Marks, membership trustee of the Exeter and District Angling Association, said: "Twenty years ago you rarely saw a cormorant on the canal but last December there were about 70 in permanent residence and each bird can catch about 2lb of fish a day. Culling is the only real solution."

Anglers want the Government to relax the legal protection given to cormorants and permit culling of the birds by fisheries managers. But ornithologists strongly oppose any change in the law. They blame the rapid growth of artificially stocked lakes and reservoirs for the increased number of cormorants.



The cormorant: greedy

## Silent spring as cold halves bird numbers

GARDENS and woodlands are expected to be quieter places this spring (Nick Nuttall writes). Populations of many common birds have halved over the past year.

Experts believe the bitterly cold spring and early summer of 1996 made it impossible for many parent birds to feed their young because caterpillars and insect larvae were in short supply.

Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology, which carries out the annual surveys, said: "I estimate that more than 40 million chicks

failed to appear over the eight species hit worst." All 24 widespread species surveyed by bird ringers at 120 sites produced fewer young. Worst sufferers are the long-tailed tit (55 per cent down), dunmuck (48 per cent), wren (45), white-throat (44), blackcap (43), lesser whitethroat (39), sedge warbler (32) and robin (27).

The tree creeper, chaffinch, chiffchaff, blue tit, great tit, garden warbler and willow warbler declined by 27 to 18 per cent in the biggest widespread failure since the survey began in the early 1980s.

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Police officers known as The Syndicate showed suspect forged document, appeal court told

## 'Pressure and lies made Bridgewater man confess'

BY ADRIAN LEE

A GROUP of police officers known as The Syndicate used pressure and forgery to pressure an innocent man into confessing involvement in the shooting of the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Opening the appeal by the Bridgewater Four against their convictions for the 1978 killing, Michael Mansfield, QC, said that police were intent on gaining an admission. His client, Patrick Molloy — who died in prison four years later — had denied involvement 80 times but he was isolated, refused access to a solicitor, questioned for hours and cracked after being shown a forged confession by another of the accused.

Mr Molloy was convicted of manslaughter, sentenced to 12 years and died aged 53. Three others — Vincent Hickey, now 44, his cousin Michael Hickey,



Carl Bridgewater

35, and James Robinson, 63 — served 18 years for the murder at Yew Tree Farm, near Stourbridge, West Midlands.

The three, free on bail, listened as Mr Mansfield outlined "serious flaws" in the case against Mr Molloy which hinged on his confession at Wombourne Police Station on December 10, 1978. The con-

fession, Mr Mansfield said, was "achieved by a combination of two forces — oppression and a carefully contrived strategy of deception". It could be laid at the door of a particular squad of officers from Regional Crime Squad number 4, based at Bilston.

Detective Inspector Jeffrey Turner headed the interrogation, Mr Mansfield said. Detective sergeants John Robbins and Dennis Walker, and detective constables Graham Leake and John Perkins, a team known by colleagues as The Syndicate, were involved. Other Staffordshire officers may have turned a blind eye, Mr Mansfield said. They included Detective Chief Inspector Wesley Watson.

Some of the 20 interviews of Mr Molloy, lasting 31 hours, were conducted in cells. "It was intended to create an atmosphere of isolation and claustrophobia," Mr Mansfield said. Many had not been

recorded or details subsequently lost. "There is a serious question mark over what was really going on in that police station in order to contrive and construct a situation where, in the end, Mr Molloy did what the officers wanted. The approach of the police was to plainly and bluntly disbelieve the denials and assert from the beginning that he was guilty, although perhaps he did not pull the trigger."

Mr Molloy was left with the impression that he had no option other than confession. Detective Constable Robbins in 1992 that he "would pull the handle on these men, open the trap door and do it with a bacon sandwich in his hand".

During interviews, Mr Molloy's pauses were interpreted by police as guilt. They hinted that Vincent Hickey had confessed and finally set a trap. A forged confession by



James Robinson, left, free on bail, is greeted outside court by Gerry Conlon, one of the Guildford Four

Hickey was shown to Mr Molloy. The document later disappeared but scientific tests this year proved its existence when slight imprints from the forgery were found on Mr Molloy's confession. Writing on the forgery matched that of

detectives Perkins, now dead, and Leake.

According to the officers, at 3.40pm Molloy "dropped his head, sighed and said 'I was there at the farm'; he dictated a confession between 4pm and 4.20pm". Mr Mansfield said it

was almost impossible for the 600-word confession to have been recorded in 20 minutes and there were remarkable similarities between the initial verbal confession and that dictated while under caution. Six sentences were identical,

and 23 of 68 clauses. Dr Brian Butterworth, of the University of London, who studies the psychology of language, concluded that the chances of these occurring independently were less than one in a million. The appeal continues.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Kwik Save blackmailer is jailed

A blackmailer who threatened to contaminate goods from Kwik Save with razor blades, needles, mercury and rat's blood has been jailed for six years. Gerard Farrell, 40, from Liverpool, pleaded guilty to his part in a £500,000 ransom plot with threats of arson attacks if the demands were not acknowledged on the National Lottery show. Preston Crown Court was told. Farrell's demand note read: "Mystic Meg must say, 'I see a windfall for Scorpio'."

#### 'Joyride' victims

Five teenagers killed in a stolen car that crashed at Crumpsall, Manchester, were identified as Sean Cosgrove, 16, Jonathan Openshaw, Peter Warburton and Sean O'Neill, all 17, and Jamie Irving, 18.

#### Not guilty plea

Tracey Andrews, 27, accused of the roadside murder of her fiancé, Lee Harvey, in December, appeared at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday formally to enter a not guilty plea. Bail was renewed.

#### Circus death

A circus acrobat has died in hospital at Newport, Gwent, a week after breaking his neck in a back somersault from the shoulders of a colleague. Aziz Elmeslahy, 23, was touring with Gerry Cottle's circus.

#### Shelling out

Linda Southern, 45, from Manchester, has spent £80 having identity microchips inserted under the skin of her tortoiseshells. "At this time of year they'll dash off and try to mate with anything," she said.

#### Protection force officer held over wife's death

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A ROYAL protection officer was arrested yesterday by detectives investigating the murder of his wife.

PC Michael Coulton, 52, who patrolled Buckingham Palace as part of his duties with Scotland Yard's SO4 division, was taken from his home in Woking, Surrey, to Bracknell police station, where he was interviewed throughout the day.

His wife, Patricia, 52, was stabbed to death on January 10 in her car in the grounds of Lynwood Nursing Home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, where she had worked as a care assistant for eight years. Her body was found lying across the driver's seat of her white Renault 19 with her legs dangling outside the vehicle.

PC Coulton attended his wife's funeral last Thursday. Detectives hunting the killer have recently been to America to question witnesses and take statements.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said a 52-year-old man had been arrested in connection with the Patricia Coulton murder. He was being interviewed by officers from the force.

The couple, who have two adult children, were first married in 1968. They divorced 15 years later, only to be reunited in 1986 and remarried two years ago. As well as his duties at Buckingham Palace, PC Coulton was one of the team responsible for security at the Duke of York's house, Sunninghill Park, about two miles from the murder scene. He reported his wife missing after she failed to return from an evening shift.

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## ELECTION 97

-9

**'I had an MP in the back of my cab...'**

The Cabbie en route to Westminster

Damian Whitworth - p10

**What are the parties' policies on Europe?**

Analysis - page 16

**Campaigning a world away from Westminster**

Ian Lang in Galloway

Matthew Parris - p15

## Edmonds breaks Labour code of silence



Edmonds: critical of the Shadow Chancellor

BY PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOHN EDMONDS became the first union leader to break ranks with the Labour Party yesterday, telling the Scottish TUC conference that he had been urged not to attend.

"You may have noticed some of us have not been doing too much public speaking in the last few weeks," the leader of the General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union said. "It was suggested to me that I might plead some other engagement, rather than come to Glasgow. But I have already washed my hair once this week."

He went on to attack Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor,

saying Labour's commitment to stick to Conservative spending plans for two years would not meet the wishes of the British public. Looking forward to "that day when the new government breaks free from the Tory shackles", Mr Edmonds said it could not come too early for him.

Until he spoke, the Labour leadership had been privately congratulating itself for managing successfully to dampen down potentially damaging moves by the STUC, especially over a national minimum wage. Broadcasters covering the conference said that Labour media managers had pressed them to downplay reports from the STUC in their news bulletins.

Asked later whether it was the

Labour leadership that had pressed him not to attend, Mr Edmonds declined to elaborate. But sources close to Mr Edmonds, whose relations with Tony Blair are poor, agree that only the most senior Labour figures would have tried to prevent him going to the STUC.

Other union leaders attending the conference said that they had received no approaches from Labour or anyone else not to attend the STUC. Rodney Bickerstaffe and Bill Morris, general secretaries of the Union public employees and TGWU transport workers' unions respectively, said that no pressure had been brought to bear on them.

The Labour leadership did enjoy one victory, however, when a resolution on the national minimum wage

was unexpectedly withdrawn by the Labour loyalist shopworkers' union. Unlawful, Mr Bickerstaffe had wanted to urge unions to submit to Labour's planned Low Pay Commission a formula for the wage to be set at half male median earnings, which would translate to an hourly rate of £4.42. Labour is insistent it will not set a rate ahead of the election.

The Labour leadership avoided a damaging revolt when union leaders failed to back a demand for the railways to be renationalised within the first term of a Labour government. But delegates endorsed a resolution backed by Aslef calling on a Labour government to honour its former commitment to a publicly owned and accountable system and

to establish "a clear timetable for the return of railway companies to public ownership". Labour dropped this commitment in its manifesto, which instead backed greater regulation for the railways.

Lew Adams, leader of the train drivers' union Aslef, told the conference that Labour should stick to its policy on rail privatisation agreed at last year's party conference. Clearly responding to perceived shifts on privatisation by Mr Blair, Mr Adams said he "expected" conference policy on the issue to be implemented by a Labour government.

"That is the policy that is acceptable to the party leadership, we were told. That is the policy we will expect to be implemented. This is

Aslef's bottom line. We are honest people who expect promises will be kept. We are democrats. We don't subscribe to mindless militancy, nor do we want favours. We want fairness." He added: "We have every right to expect that a party campaigning on the slogan 'Britain deserves better' and the new Prime Minister who pledges 'trust me' will deliver on their promises."

Earlier, a resolution calling for a repeal of anti-trade union laws and for unions to defy these laws was massively defeated, with no union battalions supporting it. Delegates voted instead for a legal right to recognition where there was "clear support" for this from the workforce, which is now Labour policy.

## Prescott gives meaningless an entirely new meaning



John Prescott sees good omens everywhere. He could speak like other politicians if he felt like it. The punchline is that he doesn't need to, says Ben Macintyre

AFTER 33 days in orbit through 59 constituencies, John Prescott finally lost his remaining grip on conventional grammar yesterday, to the undisputed admiration of the voters of Notting Hill.

In a feat of political oratory unequalled during this election, Labour's Deputy Leader delivered a high-speed ten-minute speech in the middle of Portobello Road market that was seamless, terse and unfettered by syntax or, it seemed, the need to breathe.

Mr Prescott's address began with what appeared to be various augurs of Labour victory as witnessed during his marathon slog around the country: "In Swindon we had the RAF flypast they clearly know what's what in Grimsby we saw that comet Hale-Bopp or whatever when I came along Hyde Park I got the 21-gun salute must be someone's else's birthday come May the first I'm going to be dancing round that maypole with Tony Blair..."

Mr Prescott has said so many things in so many places that he now says one enormous thing in a single fantastic sentence. His multi-

lingual listeners, including West Indians, Moroccans, Bangladeshis and two bewildered French tourists, may be accustomed to hearing English rendered in a variety of ways, but Mr Prescott's torrent of campaign elision must have placed the language in an altogether new light.

Before his arrival in West London, Mr Prescott had become embroiled in the traffic jams caused by the IRA security alerts and was forced to scrap his first two engagements of the day, no doubt causing a critical build-up of rhetoric which, when it was eventually uncorked, exploded magnificently.

"That John Major he said John Prescott's only a barsteward isn't that terrible shows that the contempt that Mr Major has for ordinary people doing an ordinary job he even had a got at me syntax that's 'cos I sailed failed the 11-plus system they want to bring back there's the difference it's the education of for the many not the few..."

Flecks of spittle had begun to appear at the sides of Mr Prescott's mouth and a lesser man would have collapsed



The beat of a different drum: Prescott with Ram John Holder in Portobello Road market. Security delays had caused a critical build-up of rhetoric

long before from oxygen deprivation, but Labour's Deputy Leader was just getting into his three-legged stride.

"Is that the bear you know we met the headless chicken in Basilidon Basilidon remember that horrible night in Basilidon Doctor Mawhinney he's the only doctor make you sick just lookin' at 'im Doctor Mawhinney I got a message from you for you there aren't

any safe seats Tory seats that chicken's ten points ahead of Major there's already two parties two manifestos he had his birthday last week you know where he went the Happy Easter it's the only place that'll take his orders..."

Any politician who has been on the stump this long is likely to sound repetitive, but it is the singular virtue of Mr Prescott's unique approach to the

English language that he appears to be delivering every speech as if the words had only just occurred to him, or were being simultaneously translated from Chinese, perhaps through a tiny microphone implanted in his sideburns. His very lack of polish lends earnest believability.

I suspect that this effect, in which overlapping waves of

speech gradually drown out any specific meaning, is entirely intentional. Mr Prescott could probably sound as clinical as Jeremy Paxman if he wanted to, but from the plethora of disjointed phrases and slogans emerges a generalised sense of energy and outrage, from which the audience then picks what it wants, or can extract.

"I hope he can win, man,"

said Bernard Niles, a West Indian who came to Notting Hill in the 1950s. "We had too much of that Tory man, man."

Mr Prescott swerved over the finishing line with a last flourish: "On May first let's have you out we want some decency in politics."

Before going on a walk-about the West Indian sit-com actor Ram John "Pork Pie" Holder, he set to work on the

highly-polished oil drums of the Ebony Steel Trust, the steel band that had heralded his arrival with a rendition of *When the Saints go Marching in*. The eerily discordant plinking produced by Labour's Deputy Leader seemed wholly appropriate. Mr Prescott insisted he was playing a tune. "This is modern jazz, so you won't understand it," he told the crowd.

## Irn Bru Lady drinks in admiration of Scottish voters

ONCE she called him her "Young Lochinvar", Sir Walter Scott's mythical knight, who carried the broadsword of Thatcherism from Downing Street to Scotland. Now she was back to help him to save his seat.

Baroness Thatcher came to Stirling yesterday to throw her weight behind Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, who is battling to save a fragile majority of 236 (boundary changes make this a notional figure). There was a time not so long ago when Tories in Scotland would have begged Central Office to keep her south of the border lest she cost them any more votes.

Now she is a secret weapon. But, like all secret weapons, the effect was unpredictable. What the voters of Stirling — or those who were close enough — witnessed yesterday, was as bizarre a public relations exercise as any in

this election. To see a posse of political reporters straining to detect what the former Prime Minister had to say about kitchen surfaces, whether she approved of the Spice Girls, or understood the significance of Irn Bru, is to see politics reduced to surrealism.

Let it be revealed that she appeared to endorse the Spice Girls as enthusiastically as they supported her. On being asked by a group of media students to sign the front cover of the Spice Girls' new book, *Girl Power*, she did so with a flourish. Asked what her reaction was to being called the first Spice Girl, she said: "I rather agree." Pressed on the subject, she said: came up with rather a good line: "Michael and I put as much spice into politics as the Spice Girls put into singing."

She would certainly have approved of Mel B's comment: "The strong will survive and

Once reviled over the border for the poll tax, Baroness Thatcher enjoyed a warm welcome as she campaigned in Stirling yesterday, Magnus Linklater reports

the wise excel." She might have been less certain about Emma's political credo: "I don't want to be a cutie. I want to be a hot sexy bitch." Baroness Thatcher's professions these days are more

royal than political, except that you can get closer to royalty. We were left to glean what she thought of marble top working surfaces. "We are going home," she said. "We want a new kitchen." Spin-

doctors were called on to interpret this, but even they confessed themselves stumped.

On to Safeway, where a middle-aged lady, seeing the police arrive, said: "They must be having trouble with shop-lifters." Caught by a roving microphone, the Baroness did deliver herself of one political comment. "I am here to support Michael Forsyth, and to support the Conservatives," she said. "We have done very

well for the whole of the United Kingdom in the last 18 years, and it didn't just happen. We made it happen." Mr Forsyth beamed.

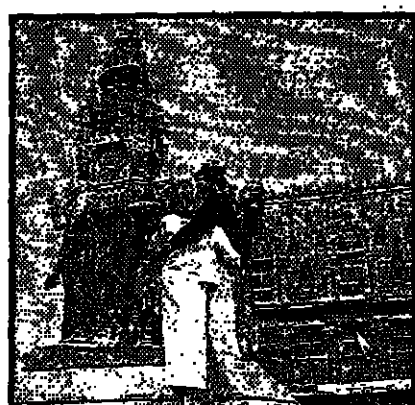
Then it was down to some serious shopping. She collected carrots, top side of beef, half a leg of lamb and a pound of Scottish butter. She looked blankly, however, at the bottles of Irn Bru, Scotland's national drink. This she had plainly never heard of, and though this lapse alone might

in earlier days have lost Mr Forsyth his majority, no one seemed to mind. The woman who was once labelled public enemy No 1 in Scotland for introducing the poll tax, is now accorded something close to respect, if not admiration. It's amazing what the absence of power will do.

"She's here in the heart of Braveheart country," said Charles Archibald, 60, from Cumbernauld. "And you have to respect her. She comes over

as quite an attractive grandmother."

Finally, the bill, and this time she was not going to be caught out by the lack of a cheque guarantee card. To the admiration of reporters, she produced Scottish banknotes, humbling only when she appeared to have some difficulty in deciphering which was which. A £10 note and a fiver is not enough these days to meet a bill for £17.50. That's Thatcherism for you.



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There never was a knight like the young Lochinvar.

# Labour cabbie talking his way to the Commons

Damian Whitworth hails a driving force but just can't make him stop

IT appeared that *The Times* had a scoop: a London cab driver who didn't like talking.

Clive Efford, 38, is a cabbie and Labour candidate for Eltham, the 24th seat on Labour's hit list. Yet his staff replied to interview requests by insisting that he did not wish to share his opinions with readers of national newspapers. An investigation was launched.

A team was despatched yesterday to the party offices in Eltham, southeast London. Officials stopped short of denying all knowledge of their candidate, but said that he was out and they didn't know where he was. Given that the day was sunny and the general election was but ten days away, it seemed a safe bet that he was out canvassing.

Out in the suburban sprawl, a red rosette was spotted and followed. It led to a tower block from which, blinking into the sunlight, came a bearded fellow in a shiny suit and comfortable shoes: Mr Efford. *The Times*

introduced itself and he looked uncertain. He glanced at his canvassing team, he shifted from foot to foot, finally he shook hands. Tentatively, he opened his mouth and talked. And talked. And talked. Rumours of the dumb cabbie had been exaggerated. Clive Efford could talk for Britain. A south London boy who grew up on the Old Kent Road, he became a cabbie about ten years ago after the family jewellery shop in Westminster closed — "victims of the first Tory recession". He also won a seat on Greenwich council.

He could talk about the NHS and youth unemployment until even fellow politicians flee, and come May 2 he will probably be paid to do so. Mr Efford trimmed the Tory majority to 1,666 in 1992. The man who won, Peter Bottomley, has now decamped to the safe seat of West Worthing.

Somebody, possibly the man who slammed the Labour office door hard in the face of *The Times*, has clearly told

Mr Efford to play down the cabbie side of things and play the serious politician. This is a shame, for conversational skills developed on the highways should carry him into Westminster, where it is believed he will be the first cabbie on the green benches.

His canvassing team tease him that once on a doorstep, they cannot get him away. And it is true. He carried sometimes for 20 minutes, on one occasion with a woman who doesn't have a vote in the constituency but wanted to expound about the decline of the industrial infrastructure.

"I always spend a lot of time talking to people. I can't help it. There are times when I've been left on the doorstep with people who have no intention of voting for me and probably take delight in taking up my time. But people don't want just a quick handshake and see you in five years' time."

Face to face, one to one, he is impressive. Unusually, he listens patiently to potential voters before hitting them with

well-oiled patter. An elderly woman who said she can't be bothered to vote was given a gentle ticking off. "Don't let them off the hook," he scolded and won her over.

"Cab drivers come from all walks of life. You are always going to have a variety of opinions coming at you. Some of them I would violently disagree with," he explained.

"I very rarely preach at people in the back of the taxi. But before the last election, I used to delight in picking up the odd Tory MP and berating them. I claim credit for getting an MP to vote against the poll tax. That was a long journey. If he wins, his cab will probably be sold to his sister, one of the first women cab drivers."

"When I am in the House of Commons, there will be plenty of people I will know who won't know me, because I was sitting in the front of the taxi," he said mischievously. "I'll ask them what they were doing when I picked them up that time."



"I spend a lot of time talking to people. I can't help it," Clive Efford meets Damian Whitworth, left

## Paddy loses the hunk vote but passes ferret test

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

PADDY ASHDOWN, fresh from his weekend glimpse of his newborn grandson in France, was treated yesterday to a disconcerting view of politics from the next generation of voters.

During a visit to a primary school in west Cornwall, the Liberal Democrat leader was invited to look at a display put together by seven and eight-year-olds entitled "Government — what we think".

First to catch his eye was a contribution from Lucy McMahon, aged eight. "Only rich or hunky men should vote," she had written at the school in the village of Stithians. "I would only vote for rich or hunky men."

Mr Ashdown delivered a gentle rebuke to the Class 3 pupil. "What would you think if I said that only pretty girls could vote? You'd think it was rather rude, wouldn't you?"

Lucy was unabashed. Out of earshot of Mr Ashdown, she giggled wildly when a reporter asked if she thought the Liberal Democrat leader was rich and hunky. Pressed to reveal who did meet those criteria, she delivered the final, crushing blow: "Seb Coe."

Mr Coe is defending the seat of Falmouth and Camborne, which includes Stithians, for the Conservatives. He has a house in the village, which may go some

way towards explaining Lucy's admiration.

Also in the display was a joint resolution from Class 3: "We think there should be more people like Rolf Harris."

Class 3 was vague about the appeal of the Australian cartoonist, singer and presenter of the television programme *Animal Hospital*. "Because he's nice" and "Because he's funny" was the limit of their analysis. Perhaps the spin-doctors should give Rolf a ring.

Outside the school, Mr Ashdown — possibly with Mr Harris's animal antics in mind — made the most of an unexpected photo-opportunity with ferret. The creature, called Beavis, was being walked by its owner, 12-year-old Penny George, and appeared on a wall behind Mr Ashdown's left shoulder as he was being interviewed by television reporters about Europe.

Ignoring a plea by one of his aides not to pick the ferret up, Mr Ashdown scooped it from the wall. "You're a lovely little beast, aren't you?" he said. "I don't think I've ever seen such a patient and docile ferret."

Mr Ashdown may have to rethink his claim, made on Sunday, that the Tory leadership contenders were fighting like ferrets in a sack.



Ashdown found himself outstripped by the Tories' Seb Coe in the race for a schoolgirl's admiration

## Tories' share of vote hovers on 32%, say polls

THE Tories' "core" vote looks to be about 32 per cent despite being sorely tested at present.

All 28 national polls since the election was called have put the Conservative share at 31 per cent, plus or minus three percentage points. The party has held at this level despite splits over Europe, an unpopular Prime Minister, awkward and misguided advertising and campaigning, low support for their positions on key issues and manoeuvring by candidates to take over from John Major even before polling day.

Since the election was called, the Tories' average share has moved up from 29 to 32 per cent, not much in itself, but enough to reduce Labour's projected overall majority by more than 100 seats. That will not affect who goes to Downing Street, but is vital to the survival of 50 Tory candidates.

The "core" vote for Labour is 28 per cent, tested nearly to destruction in the 1983 election when the party was led by Michael Foot, the most unpopular leader since the war, and fought the worst organised campaign of any party in memory. By contrast, Labour's low point in this campaign has been 45 per cent.

The total "core" vote for all other British parties, including the Liberal Democrats, is about 22 per cent. This has varied in recent elections from 22 per cent in 1992 to the 28 per cent achieved in 1983. Others, including Liberal Democrats, are averaging 19 per cent so far in this campaign.

This leaves one voter in six as being the maximum level of undecideds in this, and most, elections. It is these voters, especially those living in marginal seats, that the campaign is about.

It is to the Tories' advantage to claim that "a third of the public have yet to make up

Bob Worcester says voters will be misled if they concentrate on Labour's lead in the polls

their minds", but they are kidding the public, and maybe themselves. At least half these "floating" voters will not turn out, as more than eight in ten people give pollsters their voting intention, though under two-thirds of the public (64 per cent) say they are certain to vote, the best indicator of turnout on May 1.

At the same stage of the 1992 election, about 72 per cent said they were certain to vote and final turnout was 78 per cent. On those figures, we can expect a turnout of 69 or 70 per cent on polling day. The lowest recent turnout was in 1983 when Margaret Thatcher had her biggest victory, a landslide of the scale suggested for Labour by recent polls.

The media misled themselves and the public by focusing on the Labour poll lead over the Tories instead of highlighting the figure that really counts, the Tory share of the vote. In 1992, the Conservatives won with a 43 per cent share. If they do not reach this level now, they lose; indeed, if they do not win as much as 39 per cent, Labour wins an overall majority.

The Liberal Democrats stand to get more seats than is implied by a statistical projection on a uniform national swing since they have become a regional party. Their "core" vote is in southern England, where 90 per cent of voters live in Conservative or Lib Dem marginals.

□ Robert Worcester is chairman of MORI.

### AVERAGE OF POLLS

	Number polls	Con %	Lab %	LD %	Swing since 1992
Week starting March 17	3	29	53	12	15.8
Week starting March 24	3	30	50	14	13.8
Week starting March 31	8	30	53	12	15.2
Week starting April 7	9	32	48	14	12.6
Week starting April 14	5	32	48	15	12.1
Seats projection		197	408	25	

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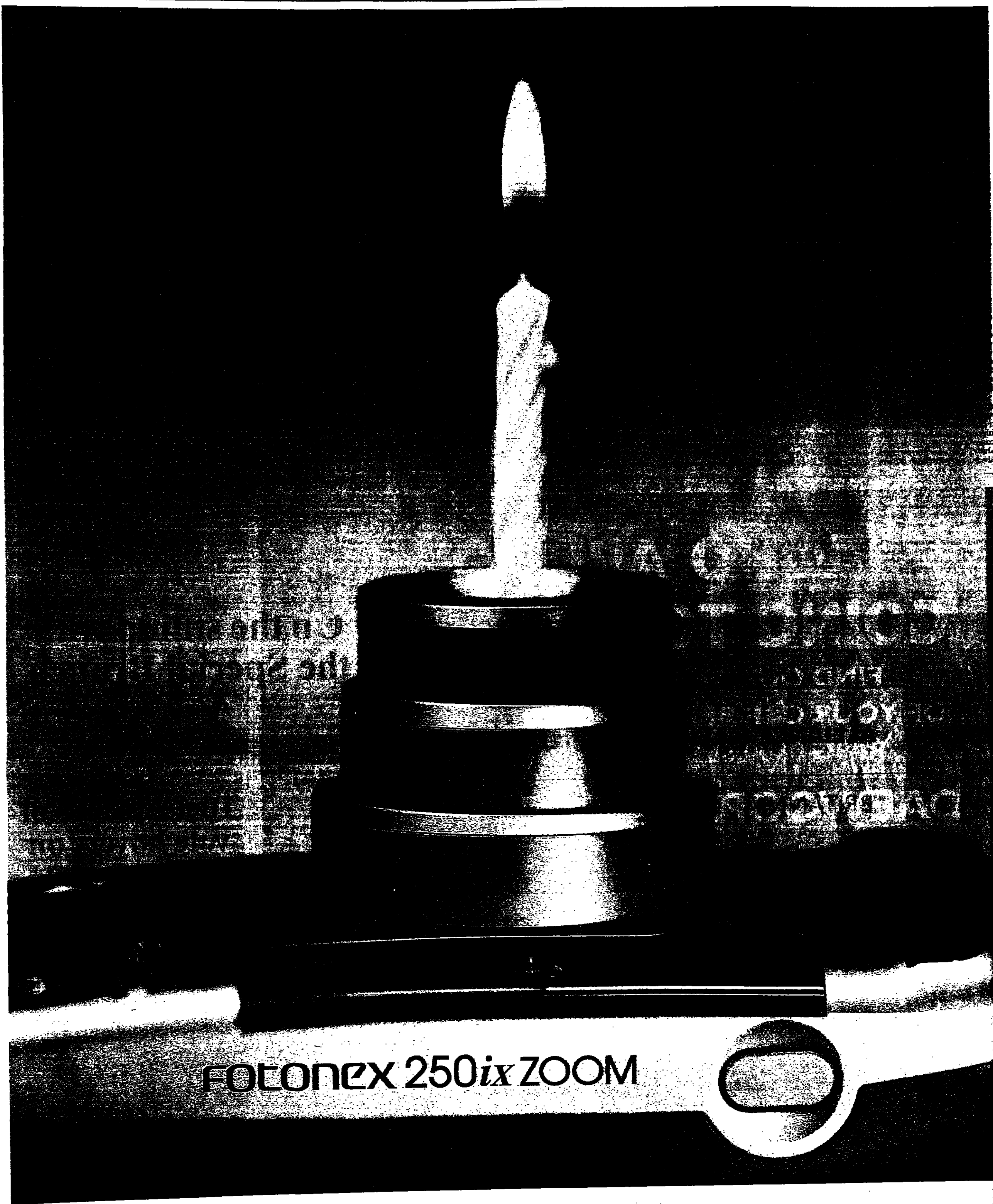
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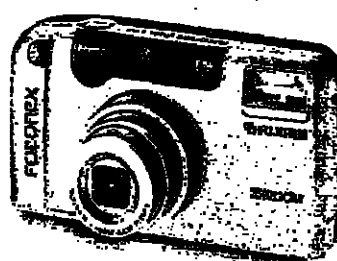
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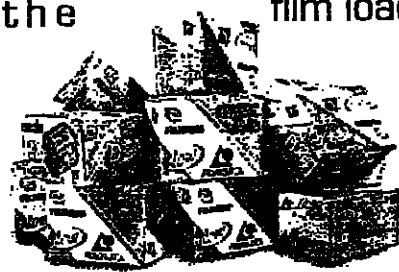
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## Ministers turn tail in the lions' den

MICHAEL FORSYTH exchanged the electoral lions' den for a real one yesterday and was left wishing he was back in the political arena. The Scottish Secretary's attempts to portray himself as a Braveheart faltered when he was faced by a pack of cubs.

The seven-month-old animals, enlisted to pose for photographers with Mr Forsyth and William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, at Blair Drummond Safari Park, were supposed to reinforce the Scottish Conservatives' emblem of a lion rampant. But instead of sitting quietly, the cubs, described by safari workers as normally sedate, showed their claws and snarled and snapped at the nervous-looking candidates.

Mr Forsyth and Mr Hague entered the lion's enclosure in front of a pack of photographers for a morning photo session to begin a day of campaigning in the Scottish Secretary's home constituency. The cubs were brought out to pose with the two men, but as if on cue they struggled and fought with their keepers as soon as they set eyes on their new captives.

As Mr Forsyth and Mr Hague backed away, the cubs bared their teeth and growled. Any attempt by the men to come close was warned off with a swipe of a paw. Eventually the two men posed nervously a safe distance from the cubs, who were placated with chunks of raw meat.



Michael Forsyth and William Hague with the uncooperative lions yesterday

## IRA tactics look like vote-loser in marginal

MODERATE nationalists are quietly turning against Sinn Féin in Mid-Ulster after the IRA's campaign of disruption in Britain. Nationalists in the marginal constituency who might have voted Sinn Féin said yesterday they would now support the SDLP's Denis Haughey, a vehement critic of the IRA.

Two pensioners chatting outside the Convent of Mercy in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, a mixed town in the heart of Mid-Ulster, said that peace was the major issue in the election. One elderly woman, who asked not to be named, said: "I will be voting for Denis because he is the serious peace candidate."

Her sentiments will irritate Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Féin candidate, who must convince nationalists that he offers the best chance of unseating the Rev William McCrea of the Democratic Unionists. Mr McGuinness aims to woo SDLP voters who were outraged when Mr McCrea shared a platform last September with Billy Wright, the hardline loyalist.

Sinn Féin faces a tough fight because a split nationalist vote has handed Mid-Ulster to Unionists at every election since 1974 even though the electorate is 60 per cent Catholic. But yesterday's IRA disruption may not cost Mr McGuinness votes — nationalists' distaste at it may have faded by polling day.

A mother who was picking up her children from the Holy Trinity Primary School in

Nationalist disgust at renewed terrorism splits the vote between SDLP and Sinn Féin in Mid-Ulster. This can only benefit the DUP, writes Nicholas Watt



Cookstown said that she was upset for commuters in England, but she felt that John Major could have avoided the trouble. She said: "John Major has a lot to answer for because he should have grasped the opportunity for peace. There also does seem to be a lot of fuss in London when we suffered much more serious violence in Northern Ireland."

Mr McGuinness hopes to attract such voters by a charm offensive on the doorsteps of Mid-Ulster. The self-proclaimed former IRA man has shed his stony demeanour and is grinning his way round the constituency, casting himself in the unlikely role of a peace campaigner. Speaking at Sinn Féin's weekly election campaign press conference yesterday, Mr McGuinness said: "The people of Mid-Ulster have been quite impressed by the contribution of people like myself have made in trying to bring about a peace settlement in our country."

On housing estates of Coalisland, Co Tyrone, where Irish tricolours hang from most lampposts, next to freshly painted IRA murals, Mr

McGuinness had a serious message for the voters. "This is a very important election," he said. "We see it as a new opportunity to rebuild the peace process with a new British government. It also gives us an opportunity to remove Mr McCrea."

Mr McGuinness's performance on the doorsteps cuts no ice with his two main opponents, who believe that the electorate will not be fooled. The SDLP's Denis Haughey, 52, who first contested Mid-Ulster in 1983 and who has been one of the party's main strategists in its 27-year history, is confident that he will be seen as the only nationalist capable of beating Mr McCrea.

As he canvassed on the outskirts of Coalisland, Mr Haughey said: "Anyone who votes for Martin McGuinness will be in no doubt about what they are voting for." Mr Haughey, a former teacher who is married with three children, added that thousands of SDLP supporters, who "lent" their votes to Sinn Féin in the election to the Northern Ireland Forum last May to protest against the

Government's handling of the peace process, would not repeat their mistake.

He said: "Those people feel betrayed and they feel conned because of the resumption of the IRA campaign in Northern Ireland. They will not fall for Sinn Féin again."

On the other side of Mid-Ulster in his home town of Magherafelt, Mr McCrea insisted that he was quietly confident that he would retain his seat. "Many people believe that Martin McGuinness is a step too far and Sinn Féin have no policies to offer other than a 'hate McCrea' campaign," he said.

However, Mr McCrea has quietly recognised that he is facing the most serious challenge in his 14 years as an MP and has trimmed his sails accordingly. His firebrand speeches, in which he used to give apocalyptic warnings of the threat to Northern Ireland from Dublin, have been replaced by measured tones as he argues that the election will be about "bread and butter issues" such as health and education.

Mr McCrea, who lives in a heavily-fortified house with video cameras and a police guard, dismisses the row about his support for Billy Wright as a side-show which is of no interest to the electorate. "Have you been brainwashed or are you just plugged into nationalist propaganda?" Mr McCrea replied to a question about Mr Wright before moving on to discuss the "real" issues.

## On the stump with the Special Branch

ANDREW HUNTER, chairman of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland Committee in the last Parliament, is followed everywhere by Special Branch officers: testament to the security threat he faces while canvassing in his Basingstoke constituency.

He has to live every day with the consequences of his interest in Ulster politics. An IRA hitman is serving 24 years for trying to kill him three years ago.

During Mr Hunter's visit to a bungalow estate on the west side of Basingstoke, where most residents are elderly, he was followed by armed Special Branch officers, one wearing the traditional trenchcoat, and slowly moving armour-plated saloon cars.

Travelling with him in the back of his car on the way to the estate, you become aware of certain security precautions. Every Tory canvasser on this visit yesterday morning was conscious that it is the routines that can be so dangerous.

Andrew Hunter, 54, Conservative MP for Basingstoke since 1983 and now standing as Conservative candidate in a redrawn constituency, knows there is a real IRA threat to him because he has been one of the most outspoken voices on Northern Ireland affairs for many years. On the day of yet more IRA disruption, Mr Hunter did not hesitate to launch forth on his favourite political subject. "When the IRA ceasefire ended, that showed them in their true colours. I am not going to be taken for a ride ever again," he said.

His name was on a list found in December of people targeted for assassination. Three years ago, the IRA gunman was caught "as he was on his way to eliminate me", he said.

The IRA first took an interest in Mr Hunter in 1988 when he called for the return of capital punishment for terrorists convicted of murder. "The latest intelligence," he said, "is that I am still being targeted. But that

Michael Evans reports on the perils of going canvassing with a Conservative candidate whose outspoken views have put him on an IRA hitlist

will not stop me from talking about Northern Ireland. It is the subject I specialise in and my supporters here in Basingstoke understand that, although they are a little bewildered."

As we drew into the bungalow estate, Mr Hunter said quietly: "Wait a moment." Then as the Special Branch officers positioned themselves, we climbed out of the car, the heavily reinforced doors requiring a considerable push.

Mr Hunter did not mention Northern Ireland as he

lan Gow, the Tory MP who was murdered by the IRA in July 1990.

When Mr Hunter called for the death penalty for terrorists in an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, his life was threatened. Armed protection was provided for several months and then removed after MI5 decided that the threat had lifted.

He expects that the present 24-hour protection will have to continue for the foreseeable future. He said he had no intention of giving up his strong public stance on the IRA, whether or not the Government was returned to power on May 2.

He added: "I did not know what I was letting myself in for. I did not realise the protection would have to be so prolonged."

His belief is that the IRA is planning to cause maximum disruption on polling day. "That is what I would do, if I was the IRA, so I am sure that is what they are working towards," he said.

After a morning of knocking on doors in the company of his armed protectors, Mr Hunter returned to the Conservative club campaign headquarters and expressed his alarm at the prospect of a Labour government making Northern Ireland policy.

He said: "The IRA believes that British governments will give concessions to violence. When I met Sinn Féin during the ceasefire, they made it clear they thought violence worked."

He added: "I do not think Sinn Féin should ever be allowed to join the peace talks because they will never be committed to ending violence. What I am afraid of is that a Labour government will allow Sinn Féin into the talks, which will give them credibility. They do not deserve to be given any credibility."



Hunter: man in jail for trying to kill him

spoke to residents at their front doors. But one elderly woman made a remark that brought a smile to his face, as the police officer in the trenchcoat watched from the end of the path. She said: "I want a United Kingdom, but not the IRA."

None of the residents seemed aware that the cluster of suited men accompanying Mr Hunter were police officers rather than fellow canvassers. Their protection was embracing but not intrusive to those who opened their doors. Mr Hunter, whose majority at the 1992 election was more than 21,000, was a friend of Sir

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# Study casts doubt on advantages of grammar schools

By JOHN O'LEARY AND JILL SHERMAN

NEW research cast doubt on Conservative claims yesterday that John Major's plans for a grammar school in every town would improve standards in comprehensive schools.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, quoted a study showing the benefits for children in neighbouring comprehensives. But critics argued that the study of schools in south Birmingham and Salisbury was too small to be conclusive, while wider research by *The Times* suggested that the impact of selection was uneven.

The Department for Education and Employment's survey of 20 schools' results showed that the proportion of 16-year-olds gaining five or more higher-grade GCSEs rose by more than twice the national average. But a comparison of results in five selective authorities showed that comprehensive schools' pass rates had fallen in two of the boroughs in the year that the survey was conducted.

In Kent and Lincolnshire, two of the counties with the largest number of grammar schools, the improvement in pass rates in non-selective schools was comparable with the department's figures, as it was in the London borough of Kingston. But in Trafford, Greater Manchester, and Redbridge, northeast London, the proportion of pupils with five higher-grade GCSEs fell in 1995. Both boroughs improved last summer.

Mr Major will rely on parent power to fulfil his grammar school ambitions,

clearing the way for petitions to trigger a move to selection. Although all state schools would receive an extra £300 per pupil as they gained full control of their budgets, there would be no extra incentives to become a grammar school.

Mr Major vowed that whenever parents wanted grammar schools, "doctrinaire Labour councils won't be able to stand in the way". Formal ballots would not be needed, although the school governors would have to show the Education Secretary that there was a broad consensus in favour of selection.

Mrs Shephard said a recent opinion poll showed that four out of five parents favoured selection, as she announced plans to establish a Grammar Schools Trust to help schools convert to grammar status.

But Labour claimed that in comparable areas, comprehensive systems were performing at least as well as those with grammar schools. The party quoted Hampshire's lead over selective Kent and Essex as an example.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said Conservative plans would lead to secondary modern schools for between 80 and 90 per cent of children. "The vast majority of children will be left with a second-class education."

Peter Miller, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said the scheme would not address the main failing of British education, which involved those at the bottom of the ability range. "How would selection for the top 20 per cent

to 30 per cent help those children?"

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the result would be a "gross waste of resources" with over-subscribed selective schools while less popular schools had a surplus of places. "The decision to give parents the right to decide on the rate of grammar school expansion panders to the self-interest of the minority at the expense of the real needs of the majority."

Margaret Dewar, who chairs the National Grammar Schools' Association, welcomed the move, arguing that there was a real demand for more grammar school places. But she expressed disappointment that there would be no extra funding for schools that converted to grammar schools in the way that money was made available to specialist technology and modern language schools.



Gillian Shephard, third from left, talking to A-level pupils in Darlington yesterday

## Model of peaceful co-existence that delivers results

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

REDBRIDGE, in northeast London, could be the model for a future Conservative school system. Its two table-topping grammar schools co-exist with successful comprehensives and specialist technology colleges.

The borough, which covers large council estates as well as middle-class suburbs, was eighth in last year's local authority rankings for secondary schools.

Labour has been in control for more than a year, but there has been no attempt to abolish the 11-plus, which has survived from pre-comprehensive days. Two thirds of children in the borough take the examination, but fewer than one in ten win a place at Woodford County High School for Girls or Ilford County High School for Boys.

With children from neighbouring authorities also eligible for grammar school places, more than 2,000 ten-year-olds compete for places at the two schools each October. Children have to show signed photographs as proof

of identity when they sit the examination. The process keeps a thriving network of private tutors in business and also swells the numbers in local preparatory schools. Redbridge's own primary schools are forbidden to coach candidates for the 11-plus.

The local authority has always insisted that its remaining secondary schools are comprehensives, not secondary moderns. Most boasted GCSE results better than the national average last year, although head teachers say they would have done better still with the full ability range. Their schools are "creamed" by three successful independent schools as well as the grammar schools.

When, in the early 1980s, Redbridge parents were consulted on a proposal to double the number of grammar schools they rejected the scheme decisively, opting instead for a fully comprehensive system. The existing grammar schools survived, however, and enjoy considerable local support.

## Anxious wait for local council poll outcome

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GRAMMAR schools in Kent are awaiting the result of local elections on May 1 with as much trepidation as the national poll.

Kent retains 40 grammar schools, the highest number of any local authority, and claims to be running the fairest selective system. The large number of grammars means they take the top 25 per cent of children, compared to the more elitist 10 or 5 per cent in areas with only a handful of selective schools.

Grammar head teachers in Kent believe that a strong Labour or Liberal Democrat performance in the 99-seat county council election will put the current system at risk. The two parties gained control in 1989 as a joint adminis-

tration but the Conservatives still hold 41 seats.

The authority still runs the 11-plus tests in English and mathematics which are used to select children every January. The Kent test is "opt-in" and half of its 11-year-olds take it. The council also meets the cost of sending children on buses to distant grammar schools, unlike Essex County Council, which scrapped transport grants when the Conservatives lost control.

Kent's secondary moderns prefer to be known as wide-ability schools. A number have opted out and re-styled themselves as comprehensives which specialise in arts, sports or music, selecting 10 per cent of children for their aptitude in these areas.

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# Blair pledges to stand firm against Euro superstate

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR yesterday gave a veiled warning to Britain's continental partners not to expect automatic agreement from a Labour government over further changes to the European Union.

In a strongly Eurosceptic speech to foreign ambassadors in Manchester, the Labour leader declared himself a British patriot and said that he would not hesitate to stop any plans for a European superstate. He cautioned Europe's political elites against forcing change without democratic support.

Mr Blair said that only Labour could restore Britain's role as a leading nation in the world. He spelt out his party's approach to foreign policy and in particular his plans for negotiations on the future of the European Union in Amsterdam.

Unlike the Tories, said Mr Blair, Labour would seek to lead in Europe. But there was not a Gadarene rush towards a European superstate. "There is a good deal of unease at the pace and direction of integration in many continental countries, not just Britain," he said. "And if there is a desire for a superstate, we would not hesitate to stop it. We want a Europe where national identities are not submerged and where countries co-operate to-

gether, not a giant and unmanageable European superstate run from the centre."

While maintaining his wait and see policy on a European single currency, Mr Blair said that Labour would "have no truck" with a fudged monetary union. He added: "Too often in the past, European elites have forced their people to proceed at a pace they are not comfortable with."

"This is not only wrong but it is also counterproductive to our democratic system. Europe can only go forward if it goes at a pace and in the direction that its peoples want. It is far more important that Europe proceed successfully than that it try to rush ahead and fail."

In key passage where he moved away from his prepared text, Mr Blair rejected what he called the narrow isolationism of the Tories and said that Labour would restore Britain's confidence as a nation in the world.

"I am a British patriot," he told his audience. "I am proud of being a British patriot. I love my country. I will always put the interests of my country first. But the Britain of my vision is not a Britain turning its back on the world — narrow, shy, uncertain. It is a Britain that is confident of its place in the world, sure of its

ability to engage with the world and provide leadership in the world."

It had been Britain's destiny to lead nations in past centuries. "That should not be a destiny that is part of our past, but part of our future." He added: "Britain can still be a great country. If on May 1 we are elected for government, we shall show what true British patriotism is about and give Britain a new lease of life."

Mr Blair said that Labour would demand immediate action from Britain's European partners on five priorities at Amsterdam in June. The party would demand the completion of the single market by the end of the British EU presidency in June 1998; progress towards enlargement of the EU to the east; reform of the common agricultural policy; moves to tackle unemployment and to boost flexible labour markets; and greater commitment to foreign policy cooperation after the failures of European diplomacy in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr Blair accused John Major of "brazen effrontery" for claiming that only he could negotiate successfully for Britain's interests. Tory divisions on Europe were "gravely damaging" Britain and the Prime Minister's record was one of "abject failure".



Tony Blair takes the lead in a computer soccer game against an employee of Ocean Graphics yesterday

## Clarke backs out of TV interview

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE pulled out of a television interview last night after an argument with the BBC over plans to question him about Europe.

The Chancellor was due to face Jeremy Paxman on *Newsnight* in a live interview about the economy but cancelled his appearance only four hours before the broadcast. His advisers argued with

BBC executives after claiming that they had changed the focus of the planned interview to Europe. The decision came the day after Mr Clarke clashed with Eurosceptics when he dismissed the "paranoid nonsense" he said they were voicing.

After several increasingly irate calls between the BBC and senior Tories, Mr Clarke decided against travelling from Nottingham to London for the interview. Senior To-

ries accused the BBC of "unacceptable" behaviour in trying to change the terms of the interview, which was arranged in February.

Last night a Tory spokesman said that a series of interviews had been arranged with Cabinet ministers and the subject for discussion was not changed at the last minute in other cases. "The BBC changed the terms very late in the day and that is not acceptable. We have agreed

subjects for interview with all the main broadcasters several months ago and we expect them to stick to that. We have already granted *Newsnight* an interview with Malcolm Rifkind and the issue of Europe was discussed at length.

"There is no question of the Chancellor backing away from debate on Europe. As far as we are concerned, the Prime Minister has said all there is to be said on Europe."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### SNP to get network TV broadcasts

The Scottish National Party has won the right to have its party election broadcasts shown on network television for the first time. Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of the Independent Television Commission, has ruled that Channel 4 and Channel 5 must transmit two SNP broadcasts on April 23 and 28.

The two channels last week refused to carry an SNP broadcast on the ground that they could not agree to broadcasts with separate content on different sides of the border. The ruling means that viewers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will see the broadcast even though they cannot vote for SNP candidates. BBC and ITV broadcast SNP programmes only on BBC Scotland and the ITV Scottish regional stations. SNP chiefs also demanded more television coverage of their election campaign.

#### Today's election timetable

Conservatives: Michael Howard, Roger Freeman in the Midlands; Kenneth Clarke in the South East; Virginia Bottomley in Wales; Ian Lang in the North East; Brian Mawhinney in the East; Sir George Young in the South West; Peter Lilley in London.

Labour: Tessa Jowell, Glenda Jackson in the South East; Frank Dobson, Andrew Smith in the Midlands; Mo Mowlam in Wales; Robin Cook in the North; Harriet Harman in the Midlands.

Liberal Democrats: Emma Nicholson, Charles Kennedy in London; Paddy Ashdown in the Isle of Wight; David Steel in Wales.

On screen: Tory election broadcast: ITV 6.55pm, CS 7.55pm, BBC1 9.50pm, BBC2 10.30pm, C4 10pm.

Liberal Party election broadcast: CS 6.25pm, BBC1 6.55pm, ITV 10.30pm, BBC2 11.30pm, C4 midnight.

#### On the Internet

The complete *Times* election coverage can be accessed via the Internet edition (site address: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>) where a special section has links to all the major stories and leading articles published so far. There are also further details of our MORI polls plus a collection of links to political parties and other reference sources.

## Both parties are guilty of blurring the choices for Britain



PETER RIDDELL

Jacques Santer is, of course, right. He did not refer explicitly to Britain in his criticisms of the flaws in the sceptics' case, but he was obviously referring to the distorted election debate over Europe. However, it is not just the Tories' fault. Labour is also guilty of blurring the choices facing Britain.

The debate has been mainly conducted in macho language. John Major claims that only he has the hard-won experience to deal with the wily continentalers over their infernal ideas for closer integration. Tony Blair is inexperienced and would be pushed around by the big boys of Europe.

By contrast, Mr Blair argued

yesterday in his big foreign policy speech that the "real issue is one of leadership and clarity". He fairly points to the fiasco of Britain's handling of the European ban on beef, though conveniently forgetting that Labour mistakenly supported last May's decision to obstruct European Union business. Given "the fundamental differences in party management, attitude and leadership", a new Labour government could give "Britain the fresh start it needs in Europe". Of course, Mr Blair initially would have a freer hand to negotiate and he would sound more positive about the EU than Mr Major.

Mr Blair's approach is long on

good intentions but evades the main issues that a new Prime Minister will have to address. Mr Blair said his first aim was the completion of the single market, but it already is for the Tories. Second, he emphasised the importance of enlargement to the East. Quite right, but that will inescapably involve much larger institutional changes to the EU than he discussed. It is much more than a matter of considering the extension of qualified majority voting to a few areas (such as environmental and regional policy) or re-weighting the voting system.

His third priority of reform of the common agricultural policy has been pursued by every British

Government since the mid-1970s with some, rather limited, success. His fourth aim, of tackling unemployment and promoting flexible labour markets, is, in part, an act of faith on a change of attitudes in Europe. His fifth goal of making foreign policy co-operation real is an existing British commitment.

But much trickier issues will have to be faced in Amsterdam as set out in the Dutch presidency paper: whether to make defence an EU responsibility; expanding the role of the EU into asylum and immigration policy and within the remit of the European Court of Justice; and extending the concept of European citizenship. On most of these, Mr

Blair was silent yesterday. In the past, Labour has opposed most such proposals, risking disagreement rather than a "fresh start" in Amsterdam. That is leaving aside a single currency where Mr Blair has virtually ruled out British participation in any first wave.

Far from putting "his foot on the accelerator to a federal Europe", as Mr Major claimed last night, Mr Blair would not put Britain in the inner core of closer integration, or at "the heart of Europe". The difference between the parties might be more of tone and tactics than of strategy, though that in itself would be welcome for Mr Santer and the rest of the EU.

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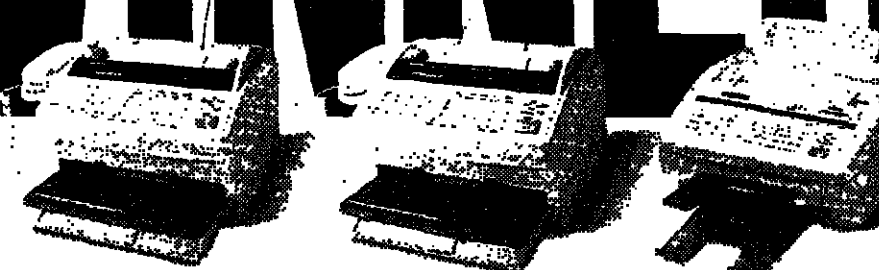
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# Labour and Tories are united by indecision

ON THE surface, the past week's campaign drama revolved around Europe. In truth, the reality of what happens in the EU was marginal to soundbite strife over political leadership and party discipline.

When John Major appeared over the heads of his squabbling candidates and ministers to voters not to bind his hands, he was making a final effort to sound like a leader. His speech laid out no strategy for resolving Britain's dilemma over the single currency, which the Prime Minister rightly described as the most momentous issue to face any British government in the second half of this century. The main parties' identically obdurate stances over EU fish quotas contain no prescription for achieving Britain's objective.

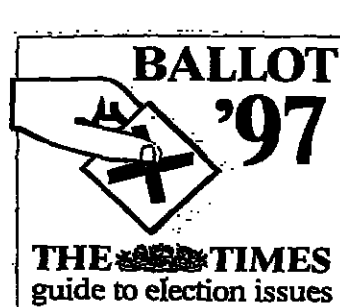
Evasion characterises most Brit-

ish debate over Europe. Few politicians can muster the self-confidence to admit that the governance of late 20th-century Britain has been profoundly influenced by the decision of France and Germany, backed by the United States and most of Germany's neighbours, to develop supranational government in Europe.

But the EU finds itself at a crossroads. Its system is a higgledy-piggledy hybrid, combining purely federal elements, such as the European Court of Justice, with less integrated decision-making in which national governments retain their right of veto. Since the Single European Act of 1986 and the fall of the Berlin Wall, ordinary voters have expressed increasingly open doubts about the ultimate target of uniting Europe and about

the means being used to achieve that end. Undaunted, the architects of the Maastricht treaty set an apparently irreversible timetable for the launch of a single currency by at least some of the EU's states in January 1999.

If the euro is born on schedule, the currency's success or failure will shape British politics for a generation. History provides no example of a multilateral monetary union that has survived without a matching political union. The states that fuse their currencies will have to find a more effective system than the present one to keep governments in step with each other. The potential of the single currency to tighten the political unity of Europe is therefore immense. But since not all EU states can qualify to join, the power of



THE POLITICS

monetary union to divide is also enormous.

Yet Britain's political class maintains an eerie silence on the issue of principle. All three parties are committed to referendums in the

event that a Cabinet recommends joining. Neither main party will ask, let alone answer, the basic question: is the redistribution of power involved in currency union right or wrong?

Tory ministers, with the sole and notable exception of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, convey the unambiguous impression that a Tory Cabinet would not join the first wave of states in 1999, but that membership has never been ruled out. Shadow ministers have kept their options open, but the underlying trend in Labour policy has been gradually to assure voters that a Blair government will make no sudden leap to join the single currency. That impression was hardened by the Labour manifestos' carefully toned remark that "formidable obstacles" stand in the

way of Britain joining the first wave of countries adopting the euro. Robin Cook went furthest when he said early in the campaign that the decision is unlikely in the next Parliament.

Debate over the euro has overshadowed the torpid Brussels talks to revise the Maastricht treaty. The government elected on May 1 will have six weeks before the revision is due to be completed.

Labour says that it would consider majority voting decisions on "certain areas" of social, industrial, regional and environmental policy. But these exclude taxation — Labour is therefore not committed to ending the deadlock over an EU-wide carbon energy tax — and are conditional on the voting system being reformed to give greater weight to large states such as

Britain, France and Germany. Labour's most distinctive promise remains its pledge to take Britain into the social chapter.

What unites Britain's two main parties on Europe remains more important than what divides them. Both believe that nation states remain the focus of people's loyalties and the basic building blocks of the system. Both are undecided about the single currency. Both are opposed to altering the treaty so as to make the formation of a "hard core" inside the EU easier. Both have little time for the idea that the EU should become a single global power in foreign policy and defence. Both would like to shift the EU's priorities away from the Franco-German agenda. In the end this convergence will matter more than the disagreements.

## Reality has failed to match the rhetoric

IN THE 18 years since the Conservatives were elected, Western Europe's political classes have grown used to poking their noses into their neighbours' business. A technocratic elite now links Brussels with other capitals in the European Union, and it is commonplace for bankers, civil servants and MPs across the Union to follow in detail the ups and downs of Helmut Kohl's plan to reform German pensions or the fate of Romano Prodi's "euro-tax" in Italy.

British politicians have been poor at networking on the Continent. Ministers in the Foreign Office who speak a second European language are the exception — let alone ministers at other departments. The adversarial habits of the House of Commons breed indifference to the coalition-building culture of continental politics.

Linked to partners whose long-term aim of European political and economic unification they did not share, British governments have long sought ways of avoiding the issue of Europe's destination.

In the early and mid-1980s, that elusive overlap of interests was found. Margaret Thatcher fought pitched battles over the British contribution to the Brussels budget which allowed her to claim victory in her campaign to "get my money back". But Mrs Thatcher was lulled into a sense of false security. By the mid-1980s, Chancellor Kohl of Germany and François Mitterrand in France were quietly cementing a partnership determined to set Western Europe's agenda. Britain raised no objection to the appoint-

### THE RECORD

ment of an earnest French technocrat called Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission.

Britain's businessmen were enthusiastic about M Delors' first big idea — bringing down the remaining barriers to an open market across 12 economies. Many businesses grew steadily more dependent on trade and cross-border investment in the European market, creating a commercial constituency now split about the merits of the single currency but united in fear of British disengagement from the EU.

The lukewarm attitude of business and wider public opinion towards monetary union can be traced back to the trauma of Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) between 1990 and 1992. The Bundesbank privately warned John Major, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, that sterling was entering the system at an unsustainably high rate, and was proved right. Sterling's ejection from the ERM, in September 1992, was also triggered by men from the Bundesbank. British ministers had to follow the German mark, keeping interest rates high, even in the face of business collapses. Overnight, Cabinet ministers were converted to the opposite philosophy by events beyond their control. The Government has never recovered from the blow to its authority.

The economic costs and benefits of Europe differ huge-



A back-door exit for Chancellor Norman Lamont in September 1992 as interest rate turmoil led to ejection from the ERM

ly between separate sectors of the economy. Smaller businesses which do not export are likely to have resented the ERM. Larger, multinational industrial groups concentrated in export trade emphasise the benefits of pan-European regulation and a regulated, frontier-free market of 380 million people from the Arctic to the Aegean.

Europhile politicians point out that in value terms, the EU market is 1½ times the size of the American market and 2½ times as large as the Japanese. Scarcely that the opportunities of the next generation lie in Asian economies — China above all — which grow at three or four times the rate of stagnant European rivals.

The true costs and benefits of the EU to the British economy lie in between. The table (below right) discloses the plain and unexciting truth that Britain's economic health does not depend on the EU, but that complete withdrawal would involve enormous dislocation. The figures tell us little about what economic damage staying outside a single currency might do, since Britain would not auto-

matically be excluded from the market. But many businessmen fear that an economic and political "core" Europe would slowly push British firms to the margins, depriving them of opportunities for mergers and acquisitions.

Mr Major has made great play with the claim that Britain's opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty protected the country from expensive, job-destroying EU law. Although no comprehensive survey is possible, a majority of business opinion seems to agree with him; there is no strong lobby outside the TUC demanding entry to the social chapter.

But Mr Major often expresses his claim in ways which undermine his own case. He has said that joining the social chapter would cost half a million jobs but has produced no calculations to support the claim.

He does not always grasp that the opt-out gives Britain some protection from some EU social law, not complete insulation from all such legislation. He often implies that the opt-out encourages foreign investment to come to Britain

rather than to other EU states. There is little hard evidence to support that. The risks posed by the social chapter lie in its potential to add costs; but so far it has imposed few. Britain's competitive advantage is that British labour law has been reformed to cut the costs of employing Britons as against the cost of hiring French or German workers.

Much debate about "common foreign and security policy" has also revealed a large gap between reality and rhetoric. British governments believe that integrating the foreign policies of substantial sovereign states has never been possible by the methods used to merge economies. In 1991, Douglas Hurd was a lone advocate among European foreign ministers of this unremarkable contention. By this year and after the EU's stumblingly ineffectual handling of the Bosnian civil war, the British position is widely, if discreetly, accepted.

Not all collective action is a waste of time. The EU states negotiate as a single body in world trade negotiations and gain greater clout from their strength of numbers. But the

lack of commonly agreed purpose and a common military force disables the EU's ambition to be a superpower.

Possibly the greatest disappointment in Britain's European policy of the past few years has been the Government's failure to press a powerfully argued case for admitting Central European states to the EU. If the original high moral purpose of European integration was to entrench democracy and to lower the risk of war by progressive economic and social intermingling of societies, then the lowering of the Iron Curtain presents Europe with a chance to relaunch itself.

British ministers, besieged by sceptics who wanted red-blooded hostility to everything across the Channel, lost interest in becoming advocates for making Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic early members of the EU. Herr Kohl, who wants the single currency to take precedence over EU enlargement, has successfully discouraged grand-standing on the issue. The next government has an opportunity to rectify this sad state of affairs.

### THE POLITICIANS

#### MALCOLM RIFFKIND

Age: 50

Education: George Watson's College and Edinburgh University.

Family: married, one son, one daughter.

Politics: once rather "wet" on issues such as Europe and gently sympathetic to Scottish devolution; now making sceptical noises about Europe and firmly opposed to devolution. Unable to shake the suspicions that he has trimmed to suit the prevailing wind and not out of conviction.

Performance: thoroughly determined Scottish lawyer but without long-term vision or the political clout to



help to heal Cabinet wounds caused by the single currency. Failed to convince Cabinet that the "beef war" would be a diplomatic and political fiasco.

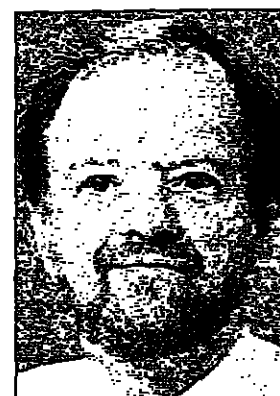
#### ROBIN COOK

Age: 51

Education: Aberdeen Grammar School and Edinburgh University.

Family: married with two sons. His wife, Margaret, is a hospital consultant. One of his sons helps to compile his father's racing tips column for a Scottish newspaper.

Politics: Tribune Left, veering to Centre. By new Labour standards, sceptical about EU in general and single currency in particular. While robustly defending the Blairite line, always manages to leave the lingering impression that he would incline further leftwards.



Performance: despite the appearance of an irritable ginger-haired gnome, he terrifies Tories by the use of sharp, sardonic aggression at the dispatch box.

### THE FACTS

□ Britain's net contribution to the EU budget for 1995 (the latest year available) was £2.86 billion, the highest contribution of any member state except Germany, whose payment was £1.1 billion.

□ Large EU states have served notice that they want to alter the majority voting quotas which load the system in favour of smaller states. Belgium, with a population about one eighth the size of Germany's, has half Germany's voting weight.

□ The next government will face two major European summits within weeks of taking office: the EU heads of government meet-

ing in Amsterdam June 16-17, which is supposed to settle the revisions of the Maastricht treaty, and the Nato summit in Madrid on July 8, which should invite selected central European states to join the alliance.

□ A recent opinion poll asked whether people thought they would be better or worse off in ten or 20 years if their countries were using a single currency. In France 53 per cent of respondents said that they would be better off and only 18 per cent thought that they would fare worse. In both Germany and Britain, respondents thought they would be worse off by ratios of 2:1.

### CONSERVATIVES



Vision: EU should be a "partnership of nation states". Nation state remains a "rock of security", and is the basic building block of the European system and gives a sense of belonging.

EMU: Cabinet ministers paying lip service to "wait and see" vary greatly in practice across a range of viewpoints. In constituency election addresses many candidates have

broken with official policy, using anti-EMU formulas on a scale from tepid reluctance to visceral hostility.

Maastricht II: no increase in majority voting or the powers of the European Parliament. No direct EU control of the Western European Union defence group. Pragmatic reform of European Court of Justice.

Enlargement: in favour of admitting Central European states, but warning that common agricultural policy and regional subsidies will have to be drastically cut.

"Core" Europe: any arrangements to allow inner groups to press ahead must be open to all and agreed by all.

### LABOUR



Vision: an alliance of independent nations choosing to co-operate to achieve the goals they cannot achieve alone. "We oppose a European federal superstate." Promises to give Britain "leadership in Europe".

EMU: retain British opt-out and make "complex and difficult judgment" on basis of "hard-headed assessment of economic reality".

Staying out would grow harder if success of euro provoked pressure for British membership.

Maastricht II: limited extension of majority voting conditional on new voting weight for large states. Will join social chapter. No significant change to joint foreign policy; hostile to European army. Will not relax British immigration control.

Enlargement: enthusiastic about Central European membership. EU expansion planned as major theme of British EU presidency in first half of next year.

"Core" Europe: hostile in principle, but recent pragmatic noises.

### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Vision: a decentralised federal United Kingdom within a decentralised federal European Union. Britain must show leadership in Europe.

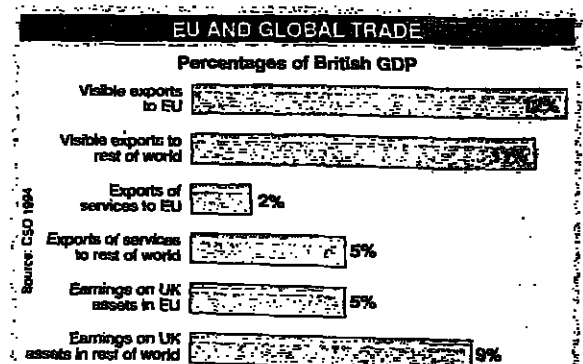
EMU: it is in Britain's interests to join as and when monetary union begins. Britain and its economy can only suffer by staying outside the single currency and will in any case be forced to run economic policy in

parallel with the euro zone.

Maastricht II: extend majority voting but not to treaty changes or the EU budget. Open secretive Council of Ministers to public. Extend amending and blocking powers of European Parliament. Reduce numbers of European Commissioners.

Enlargement: EU should be "wider and deeper" and moved by the "spirit of enlargement". EU may well expand to 25 members in next decade.

"Core" Europe: Franco-German plan incompatible with the spirit of enlargement.

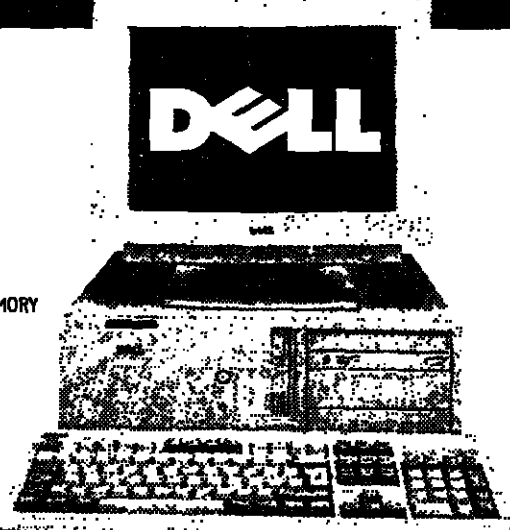


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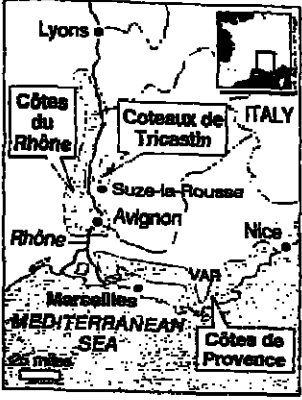
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## Severe spring frost takes a hefty nip out of southern French vineyards



FROM SUSAN BELL  
IN PARIS

WINE growers in southeast France estimate that up to 80 per cent of the expected grape harvest in certain parts of the Var and the Drôme may be lost after an exceptionally severe frost struck the region.

The sudden cold snap will reduce the volume of Cotes-du-Rhône this year by between 10 and 20 per cent, the Comité Interprofessionnel de Cotes-du-Rhône said yesterday, although exports are not expected to be affected. The volume of Cotes de

Provence, Coteaux Varois and Coteaux d'Aix will also be reduced. As a wave of cold air swept across the region, the temperature fell to -5C (23F) on the night of April 17. The resulting frost blackened vines, particularly vulnerable as they were three weeks more advanced than usual at this time of year after a mild and sunny spring.

One of the hardest-hit appellations will be Coteaux du Tricastin, with up to 80 per cent of the vines burnt by frost. "Everywhere you look there is desolation," lamented the proprietor of 22 hectares (54

acres) of vineyards at Suze-la-Rousse in the Drôme, which produces Coteaux du Tricastin and Cotes du Rhône. "It is completely done for. There is not a single bud left which is green," added the local mayor, Michel Rieu, himself a wine grower.

Seven thousand hectares of vineyards producing Cotes-du-Rhône out of a total of 43,500 hectares have been affected by the frost.

In the Vaucluse, the situation was the same, with more than a third of vineyards suffering from temperatures as low as -7C. Châteauneuf-

du-Pape, Gigondas and Vacqueyras are among the wines included in the estimated loss of 500,000 hectolitres (11 million gallons).

In the Var alone, where 20 communities were affected, the loss is estimated at 80 million francs (£8.8 million). More than 10 per cent of the region's annual production representing about 200,000 hectolitres has been lost, including 100,000 hectolitres of Cotes de Provence, about a quarter of the expected yield. Exports of Cotes-du-Rhône are not expected to be affected as there are significant

stocks to meet overseas demand. Nor, according to Marie-Pierre Delpeuch, a spokesperson for the Comité, will the quality of the wine be affected.

However, the harvest will be made more difficult for growers as they must now distinguish between those vines which were affected by the frost, whose grapes will ripen more slowly, and those which escaped. "As a result, many growers will have to harvest twice this year. It is going to be very complicated for them," said Mme Delpeuch. A crisis group was set up in the region

to estimate the damage and to investigate the possibility of financial compensation for the wine growers, who last night were lamenting what they described as a "financial catastrophe".

Fruit growers in the Drôme were also severely affected by the adverse weather conditions. The community of Tain l'Hermitage suffered the worst with farmers predicting that more than 80 per cent of the local crop of apricots, cherries and pears had been ruined.

Photograph, page 28

## Unicef condemns plight of young in Eastern Europe

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A MILLION children are in care in Eastern Europe, hundreds of thousands live on the streets, drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents has reached record levels, and abandoned offspring are increasingly ending up as prostitutes or as victims of paedophiles.

That was the dismal picture drawn by Unicef yesterday in a 170-page report charting the fate of children in post-communist countries since 1989. The composite picture of a destroyed generation suggests that children had it rather better under communism. "In many ways they are worse off now, and this is a scandal," admitted the principal author, Gaspar Fajth.

Unicef emphasises that it was not advocating a turning-back of the political clock. "If you compare the material situation of children then and now, you could say they were better off," said John Micklewright, a kind official. "But this does not mean that communism is better for children. These are countries in transition, and the question is where they end up — as relatively more hostile to children, as in Latin America, or more friendly, as in Western Europe."

The report indicates that children are being abandoned on a massive scale. Divorces outstrip marriages in much of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. "Marriage

and remarriage rates have plunged the most in the Baltic and Caucasian countries, where in some cases the number of marriages has dropped by half," the report said.

The breakdown of communism introduced the region to mass unemployment: 4.8 million jobs have disappeared in Central Europe since 1989, 2.2 million in southeast Europe, and 13.2 million in Russia and

**6 Children are worse off now than under communism.**

**This is a scandal**

the former Soviet Union. There are huge income differentials. The number of children living in poverty has risen drastically in the past six years. This has hit nutritional standards, increasing the prevalence of stunted growth. Neglect is also a problem, with parents trying to hold down several jobs. Bulgaria estimates that four in five children have no after-school supervision.

The social consequences of this neglect are evident. Adolescents are running wild.

Sexually transmitted diseases are on the increase among 14 to 17-year-olds, especially in the Baltic states, and the countries in the western part of the former Soviet Union. Syphilis is common in the region, after being virtually eradicated in the 1980s. The number of alcohol-related problems among Russian adolescents has jumped from 14.8 per 1,000 youths in 1990 to 27.3 in 1994. Marijuana smoking and glue-sniffing have become common to most schools.

Between 1989 and 1995, juvenile delinquency has increased. Shops in Warsaw have been selling out of baseball bats bought by combative rather than sporting Polish adolescents.

The growing number of street children has also encouraged the sexual exploitation of minors. In Riga, the Latvian capital, only 6 per cent of prostitutes were under the age of 15 in 1989. Now 24 per cent are minors. More than 1,000 Romanian boys are working as prostitutes in Berlin.

Unicef is urging the governments of the East not to neglect social welfare in their difficult transition to market economy. The charity is pressing for new systems of family support and child protection services. Child welfare services on the British model could help, as could family centres and parental support groups, the report said.



Children squeezed into a small dormitory at an orphanage in Targoviste, Romania

## Coalition intact as Netanyahu placates critics

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday reinforced his reputation as the Houdini of politics by emerging from the country's most serious scandal with his political strength undiminished.

As the Jewish state prepared for last night's start of the Passover holiday, all leading members of Mr Netanyahu's ruling coalition who had threatened possible resignation vowed to continue backing his hardline Likud Government, maintaining its comfortable tally of 66 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

The potential rebels within and beyond Likud claimed that Mr Netanyahu had been vindicated by the decision of the country's two senior law officers not to press charges of fraud and breach of trust recommended in a 995-page police report, which briefly threatened to plunge the country into a divisive June election.

Two senior Likud Cabinet members — Dan Meridor, the Finance Minister, and Limor Livnat, the Communications Minister — withdrew threats of resignation, demonstrating their agreement with Ze'evulun Hammer, the leader of the National Religious Party, a key coalition partner, who said: "The Government has the right to exist. It is not any worse than others from a moral point of view."

Similar statements of support for Mr Netanyahu, 47, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister, came from two small parties. The Third

Way and the Russian immigrants' party, Israel B'Aliya, which between them control 11 Knesset seats and which had indicated they might pull out.

After party meetings, they pledged their intention to stay in the coalition, making its political position impregnable despite repeated calls from the main opposition Labour Party for new elections.

Avigdor Kahalani, the former war hero who founded The Third Way, quashed any lingering Labour hopes when he said in response to the 75-page report by the Attorney-General and the State Attorney: "I am glad the matter is behind us."

In a barnstorming series of television performances, Mr Netanyahu brushed aside many of the doubts raised by the report, which said his actions concerning Roni Bar-On, the Jerusalem criminal lawyer who was named Attorney-General, a post he vacated after only 12 hours, "raised bewildering questions".

The Prime Minister said: "The bottom line is, I did not commit any crime, and the Attorney-General confirmed that. I think, and so do the majority of the people, that this affair is behind us."

His reading of the political pulse was supported by a poll in the Tel Aviv daily newspaper, Yediot Achronot, conducted after the prosecutors' report. It found 58 per cent of Israelis supported Mr Netanyahu's determination not to resign.

Leading article, page 23

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## Mining giants sign \$3bn-a-year deals with Zairean rebels

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

MINING multinationals have signed billion-dollar deals for mineral rights with Laurent Kabila, Zaire's rebel leader, to get ahead in what is being billed as "the second scramble for Africa".

Mining giants such as De Beers and American Mineral Fields have contracted to develop Zaire's mineral deposits which are worth at least \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) a year for copper, cobalt, gold, zinc and diamonds with the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, cutting the legally recognised Government out of the picture.

Executives with the firms said that they are happy to be doing business with the rebels, who control all of Zaire's mineral resources other than its offshore oil fields, because they do not ask for bribes.

De Beers has also ditched its relationship with the fast-crumbling regime of President Mobutu and signed up with

the rebels to get involved in a \$500 million a year diamond business. The unusual alliance between big business and revolutionaries, many of whom were Chinese-trained Maoists and Marxists in their youth, has been accepted by Western governments, who see Mr Kabila as a man to lead Zaire out of three decades of corruption and staggering poverty.

This week American Mineral Fields signed three contracts worth \$885 million which would give the mining house access to the vast metal reserves of Shaba province.

Other multinationals have been asked to provide satellite telephones to the rebels, who have argued that without them they would be unable to negotiate mineral rights deals internationally.

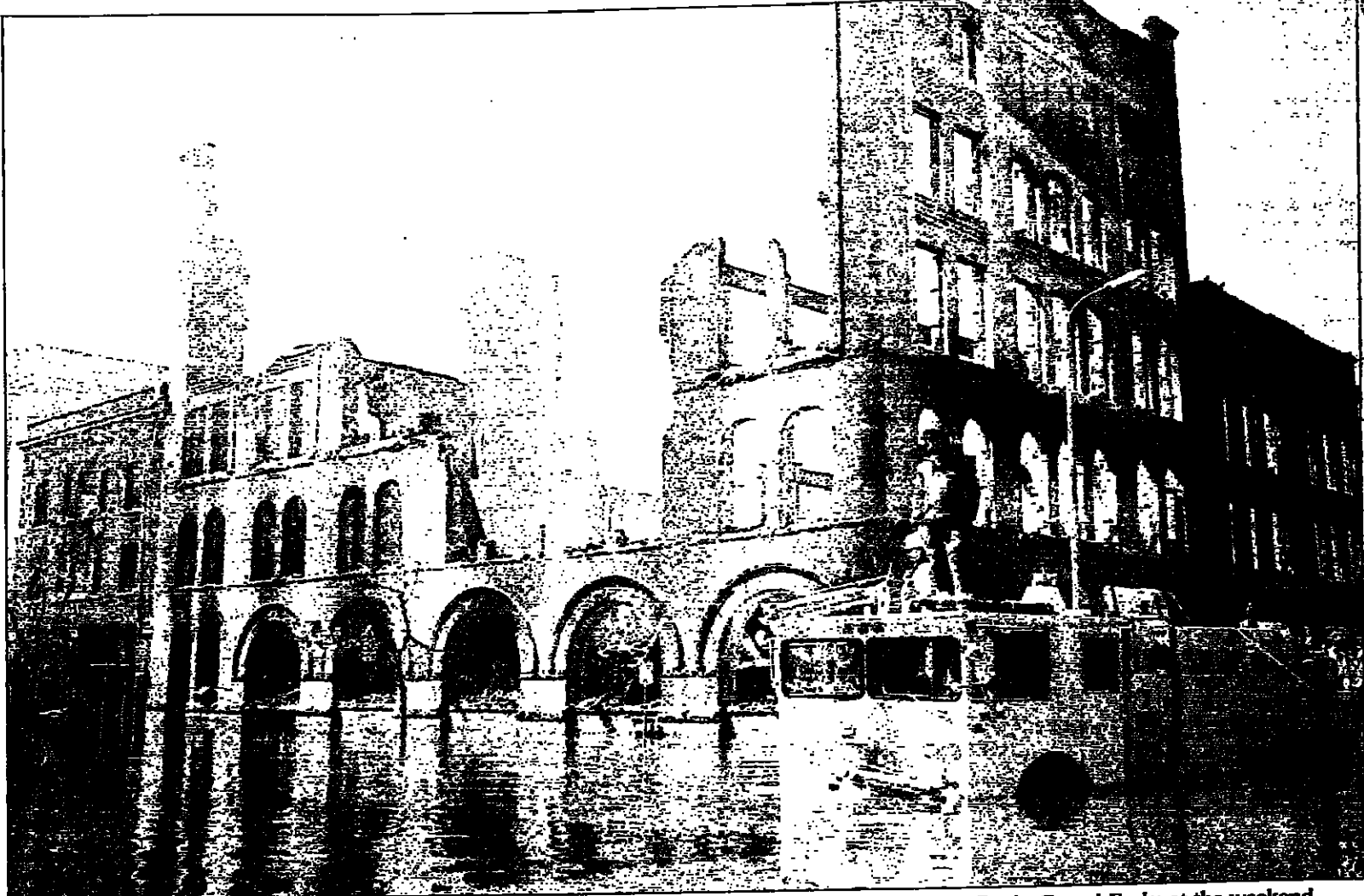
Unlike the days when President Mobutu farmed Zaire's economy as a personal cash cow, the businessmen said that there was no smell of

corruption in meetings with the rebel financial chiefs. Michael McMurrough, chief executive and chairman of American Mineral Fields, said: "AMF has not paid anyone anything."

Kenneth MacLeod, president of International Panorama Resource Corporation of Vancouver, said: "We are going to capitalise on the current strife by increasing our presence and our land holdings in the country."

Another mining magnate based in Johannesburg gave the second scramble a historic twist: "Cecil Rhodes must be spinning in his grave at the opportunities he is missing."

□ **Kasese:** Aid workers suspended operations in Rwandan refugee camps last night after an outbreak of looting, murder of local people and attacks on foreign journalists and aid workers by Zairean mobs. The Zaireans blamed Rwandan Hutu militiamen for the killings. (AP)



Firefighters near the Security Building, part of one of three city centre blocks to be destroyed by fire in Grand Forks at the weekend

## Flooded city takes stock after inferno

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

GRAND FORKS in North Dakota, battered by floods and fire, has been left looking like a scene from wartime Dresden. Three blocks of the town were destroyed by a blaze that firemen, stranded by the flooding Red River, were unable to reach. They even tried taking fire engines into the area on the back of flatbed lorries, but failed.

Police said that 90 per cent of the city's 50,000 residents, including hospital patients, had been moved to higher ground. More than 10 square miles of the state's second biggest conurbation were inundated after heavy spring rains and melting of record

snow, and the handful of people left in their homes were praying, awaiting rescue, or, in one or two cases, defiantly flying the Stars and Stripes.

Grand Forks city centre was sitting in up to 7ft of stinking, sewage-tainted water but that did not prevent the fire spreading. The 11 destroyed buildings included a bank, offices, flats and the headquarters of the *Grand Forks Herald*. The cause of the fire was unknown. It was finally doused by helicopters, which dropped a mixture of chemicals and yet more water.

President Clinton is to visit the stricken area today, the White House said.


## Whitewater prosecutor seeks longer inquiry

Washington: The Whitewater inquiry gains further momentum this week (Tom Rhodes writes). Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, is expected to seek a six-month extension for a federal grand jury investigating the alleged involvement of President and Hillary Clinton in illegal transactions in Arkansas.

Mr Starr's decision comes amid reports of repeated contact between Bruce Lindsey, the President's closest confi-

dant, and Webster Hubbell, the former Justice Department official convicted of fraud, who is alleged to have received money to keep silent about Whitewater. At the time, both were key witnesses in the case.

The jury was due to disband at the beginning of next month but the extension, which must be granted by the court in Little Rock, would retain its 23 members until the end of November.



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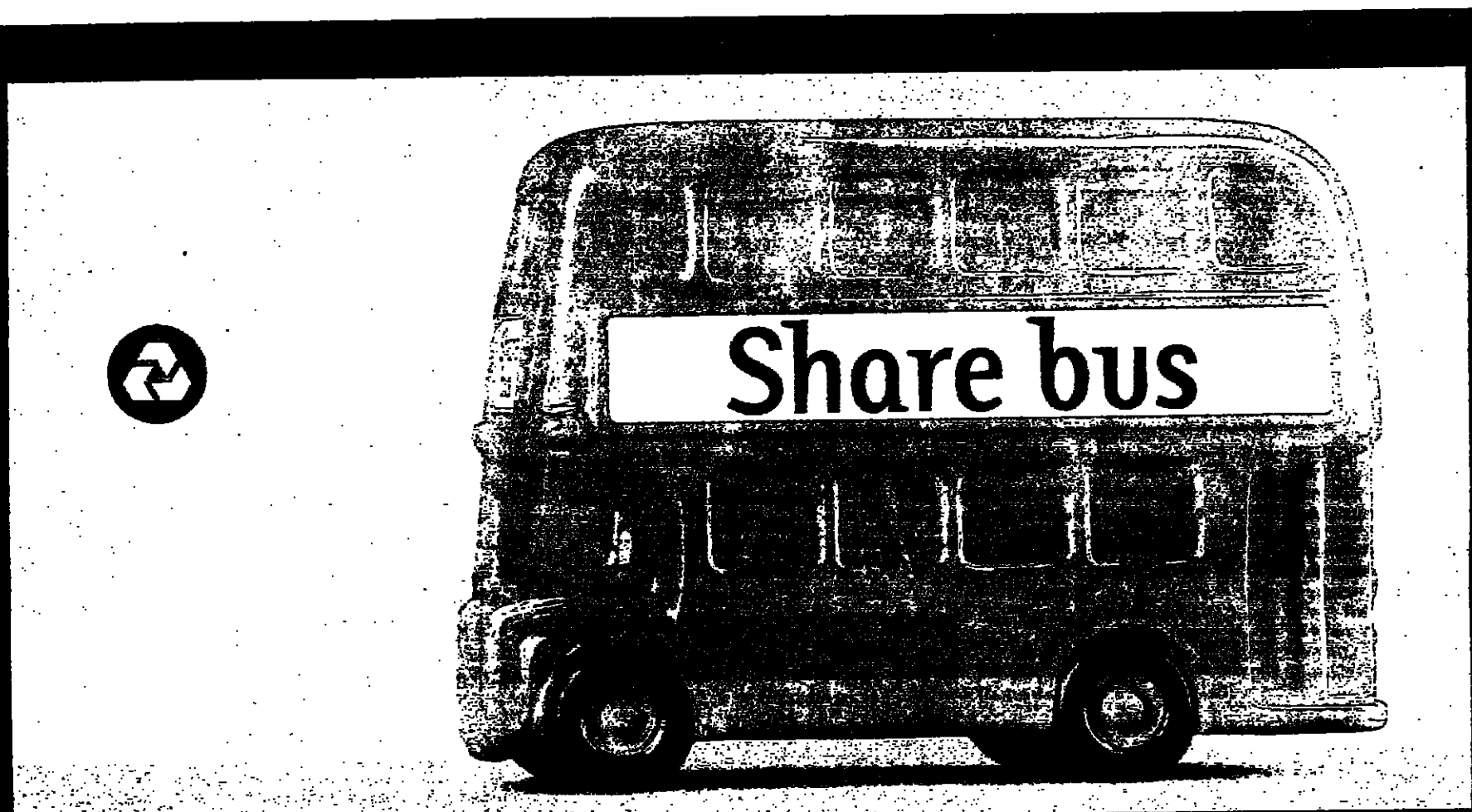
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# Chirac announces early poll to gain mandate for EMU

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC last night announced early parliamentary elections in an attempt to give his Gaullist-led Government a clear mandate to lead France into Europe's single currency.

In an unprecedented constitutional move, M Chirac brought the election forward by a year. The first round will be on May 25, the second a week later. Speaking on television last night, he offered a passionate explanation, saying that the "interest of the country commands that we advance the elections".

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, will head the centre-right majority's campaign, pledging cuts in state spend-

ing and taxes. However, the campaign will be dominated by Europe, with M Chirac and M Juppé determined that France is ready for the single currency in 1999.

With key decisions on monetary union and the reform of European institutions to be taken over the next year, France needed a strong Government. "In order to approach these deadlines from a position of strength, your agreement and support are essential," he told voters.

Lionel Jospin, the opposition Socialist party's leader, has promised to renegotiate monetary union to implement expansionist economic policies should he become Prime

Minister. The result of the election could also hinge on the performance of minority parties such as Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front, which is opposed to the Maastricht treaty.

According to an opinion poll in yesterday's *Le Figaro*, the Gaullist-led Government is likely to win a majority of the 577 seats in the National Assembly.

The coalition formed by M Chirac's Gaullists and the centrist UDF movement won a crushing majority in the 1993 legislative elections as voters abandoned left-wing parties dogged by sleaze allegations.

Under the French constitution, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet represent the majority in the National Assembly, even if they oppose the President. M Chirac could, therefore, find himself involved in a difficult *cohabitation* with M Jospin until his term of office ends in 2002.

The head of state, who wanted to announce the snap election on Thursday, was forced to confirm his decision yesterday after it was widely leaked. His opponents will accuse him of opportunism, pointing out he is the first President in the Fifth Republic to dissolve the National Assembly for "his own convenience".

They believe the Government is planning further spending cuts this year. M Jospin said: "If the majority was confident of the success of its policies, it would wait calmly for the elections in a year." M Le Pen, who yesterday earned widespread condemnation for his description of the Nazi gas chambers as "a detail of history", said: "The President is afraid that 1998 will be full of threats."

However, M Chirac's coalition will argue that its reforms are vital for France's future. He said France needed a far-reaching reform of the state to make possible a cut in public spending, the only way to reduce taxes and welfare charges which weighed too heavily on citizens and discouraged initiative. "We must go further along the road to change," M Chirac said.



SERGEI KARPUNOV/REUTERS

## Lenin back on display

The body of Lenin, which has been returned to public display in his mausoleum in Red Square after a three-month course of treatment by embalmers.

As the remains of the founder of the Soviet state underwent a series of chemical baths in the specially designed underground lab-

oratory adjoining the marble mausoleum in Moscow, a debate raged in Russia over his final resting place (Robin Lodge writes). A growing number of liberal politicians have been demanding the removal and

burial for millions of Russians and a denial of the country's history and heritage. A Communist resolution last month denouncing any attempt to move the body as an act of vandalism failed to gain a majority.

President Yeltsin has suggested there should be a referendum on the issue.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Saddam to flout flight ban

Nicosia: Iraq declared yesterday that it would flout a no-fly zone imposed by American and British warplanes by sending helicopters to collect "sick and exhausted" pilgrims returning from Mecca (Michael Theodoulou writes).

Saddam Hussein also issued a warning that threats to the pilgrims' safety would be "met with the suitable response to deter aggression". The White House said it would, if necessary, respond "appropriately, but we're not going to shoot down civilian helicopters".

### Troops arrive

Hong Kong: Forty soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army arrived in Hong Kong yesterday, the advance party of the 10,000 troops who will replace the British garrison on July 1 (Jonathan Mirsky writes). The soldiers will start preparing barracks for the garrison, the first mainland unit in Hong Kong for more than 150 years, and make logistical arrangements.

### Internet charges

Rosenheim: A German couple are to stand trial for offering through the Internet to provide children for sexual torture to sadomasochist paedophiles. They are alleged to have said they could arrange the kidnapping, rape and other sexual abuse of children for money. Murder would cost extra. (AFP)

### Royal rejection

Stockholm: King Carl XVI Gustaf, 50, has upset Sweden's Freemasons and broken a 200-year tradition by refusing to succeed his late uncle, Prince Bertil, as the organisation's Grand Master. *Expressen*, the Swedish daily newspaper, reported. (AFP)

## Gaullists gamble on decisive win

BY ADAM SAGE

### ANALYSIS

EUROPE will weigh heavily in the French legislative elections called yesterday by President Chirac, and the elections will weigh heavily on Europe.

A decisive victory for the ruling centre-right coalition would be certain to accelerate moves towards monetary union and political integration. Any other result would fuel the doubts hanging over the single currency and the intergovernmental conference on the reform of European institutions.

Most opinion polls say the Gaullist-led majority is likely to win. But none of France's mainstream leaders can claim to be respected by a volatile electorate, which could turn either to the Socialist-led opposition or anti-European protest parties. The Socialists want to renegotiate monetary union and the protest movements want to scrap it.

Given the uncertainty, yesterday's decision represents a bold gamble. M Chirac's job is secure until the next presidential election in 2002, but if the centre-right loses its parliamentary majority, the President would have to share

power with the Socialists. Under the French constitution, the head of state can dissolve parliament at any time. Yet no President has used his power in this way before. Legislative elections have always been called immediately after a presidential election or during a major crisis. The Gaullists must convince the electorate that it was necessary to break with tradition and call the polls for a month's time, a year before they were due to be held.

With M Chirac likely to step above the political fray, it will be left to Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, to explain that France needs a strong government to lead the country into the intergovernmental conference and single currency. He says his Government will have greater authority in European negotiations if it has a clear electoral mandate.

However, the ruling coalition will mind its words over Europe. Many Gaullist voters are hostile towards the single currency and angry about austerity budgets to prepare France for monetary union.

## Pakistan endorses new Delhi leader

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S twelfth Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, was sworn in yesterday at the presidential palace in Delhi to the uncommon sound of accolades from all countries in the region, even Pakistan.

No choice of leader for South Asia's superpower could have been more popular with Islamabad. Its warm message represented a rare sign of hope that the two nations could embark on serious attempts at conciliation for the first time since their last war — the third — in 1971.

Mr Gujral has given Indo-Pakistan relations top priority and can be expected to seek an early dialogue with Nawaz Sharif, his Pakistani opposite number, with whom he has a good personal relationship. He was born in Mr Sharif's home province of Punjab in

1919 and retains family links there. His wife, too, was born in what is now Pakistan — in Lahore, the Punjabi capital.

The Prime Minister's office in Islamabad hoped that Mr Gujral's "welcome" appointment, to be confirmed in parliament today, would lead to better relations. Almost every Pakistani newspaper welcomed the appointment.

Mr Gujral, 77, made it clear last night that he would press for the opening of cross-border trade, all but non-existent

now. He was sure of success. In a recent interview with *The Times*, he said he had "emotional" feelings towards Pakistanis because of his background and wanted relations normalised in his lifetime.

India had a vested interest in a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan because any fire in a neighbour's house was bound to spread. The aim should be to tackle the least controversial issues, such as trade and visa restrictions, and use them to build confi-

dence. Political uncertainty in Delhi has made Islamabad reluctant to consider any conciliatory gestures — such as demilitarisation of the disputed Siachen Glacier — and it may still feel that the 13-party United Front coalition is too unstable for bold decisions.

Mr Sharif is Pakistan's strongest elected leader; he has a two-thirds parliamentary majority, Islamic hardliners are sidelined, and the army appears committed to democracy. There has never been a better opportunity for Pakistan to offer concessions.

## HP's new NetServer E-30 means goodbye to the desktop PC server.

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# Taking marriage for granted is the essential thing

In part two of our series on marriage, John Bayley, husband to Iris Murdoch for 40 years, reflects that the point of being married lies in its permanence

## GROWING OLD TOGETHER

In Anthony Powell's superbly constructed novel *A Dance to the Music of Time*, there is a good deal about marriage, both in terms of commentary and example.

Marriage, he ruminates, can be investigated and explained, but it is doubtful if an existing marriage can be described directly in the first person and convey a sense of reality. One cannot, in fact, define the distinctive "marriedness" of one's own arrangement, though one can have a shot, as Powell does admirably, at conveying an idea of how two other people are getting on in the married state.

Marriage, Powell concludes, contains "a hundred dual antagonisms and participations — the moods of a love affair, the contradictions of friendship, the jealousy of business partners, the fellow-

feeling of opposed commanders in total war".

It sounds a strenuous business, and in a way no doubt it is. Its pains can be defined more easily than its pleasures, and Powell is not the only novelist to have charted those pains both hilariously and gruesomely. Dr Johnson was surely wrong, too, in remarking that although "marriage has many pains, celibacy has no pleasures". Celibacy has lots of pleasures, which can be catalogued much more easily than those of marriage, and for that reason are, in the end, perhaps less worth having.

Marriedness, therefore, exists as a separate state only in so far as you don't try to define it. You must look at it mystically, or negatively, ticking off the things that are ultimately irrelevant to it, such as sex and procreation.

There is no need to be mar-



John Bayley and his wife Iris Murdoch have always listened to *The Archers* with a common sense of absurdity; even the pigs can provide them with a source of amusement

ried to be very successful at these related activities. Two people can live together for years, have a perfect sex life and a number of children, and yet have no idea what marriage is all about. Merely living with someone, as Powell notes in *Memoirs*, is quite a different experience, which, by apparently imitating it, paradoxically falsifies the idea of marriage. You must do the real thing to find out what it is. Those who are married in all but name are apt to be too conscious of their relationship to take it for granted.

And taking it for granted is the essential thing. Of all the gruesome misunderstandings about matrimony the most

sinister is that the partners "have to work on it". No doubt, because their social codes still discourage promiscuity while allowing frequent changes of marriage, the Americans tend to be conscientious workers in the marriage field. Like jogging, this has to be done regularly, and usually in public. There is also the

though it may be formalised it nonetheless remains a voluntary convenience. An excellent thing for practical purposes: the marriage state, however, does suggest something rather different.

It can begin by a meeting with fate — an obscure realisation that the moment of destiny has arrived. I first saw my wife as she laboriously pedalled an ancient bicycle past the college in north Oxford where I was living. It was a thoroughly nasty day, and she looked cold, depressed and preoccupied. None the less, Wagnerian trumpets seemed to sound, and I could think of nothing but the absolute necessity of getting to know her as soon as possible. I found she was a philosophy don at the college next door. I was still virtually a student. She was six years older and quite uninterested in getting married, least of all to me.

A wedding did eventually take place, however; and after it I can recall very distinctly that my "fiancée" appeared to

be quite different, seeming to take for granted that all the fuss was now over. From now on we should each do what we wanted to do, but in a different way. Our solitude, as it were, existed on a more friendly basis.

There was no need to do anything about this, to get to know each other inside marriage, to suppose or pretend a wish for more of the other's company. Politicians or business people who announce that they are giving something or other up to "spend more time with their wives and families" always sound singularly unconvincing, as if indeed, as Powell put it, they were failing to convey any true sense of reality. One may indeed want to be with someone — a wife or a husband — but to say that you do in public is always suspect.

Married intimacy is not only secretive but mainly a matter of humour. Probably the whole business is comic from the start, and recognition of this is one of its greatest and most beneficial relaxations. It is certainly a help to find each other funny, part of the healing process of what the Australian poet A. D. Hope subtly referred to as "moving closer and closer apart". He meant, I

take it, the process by which the closeness of the partner becomes itself something to contemplate happily and comfortably from a distance, like a picture, a work of art or, indeed, a joke. If Othello and Desdemona, or Romeo and Juliet, had been able to have a good laugh, or see each other in the blessed light of humour and comedy, they would most likely not have come to a tragic end. Humour helps to displace sex and gender, too, and without making these two basic and unalterable things frivolous, removes their implacable quality. An essential aspect of marriage can be to dissolve the difference between men and women: you no longer have to choose which to be.

Humour again is the solvent here, for its origins and response make no distinction between the sexes. Tolstoy's characters Vronsky and Anna Karenina are in some ways archetypal man and woman, but the difference is dissolved in a most touching way right at the end of the novel when Anna, on her way to the station to throw herself under a train, suddenly sees something funny which she

thinks she will tell Vronsky. Then she realises she won't be seeing him again. It is a moment at which she — and we — suddenly realise, too late, that the now estranged and divided lovers still have a sense of humour in common.

My wife and I have always found *The Archers* extremely funny for some reason; and we share this sense of absurdity by describing episodes for each other, if one of us happens to have heard them and the other not. In this way even the pigs amuse us. Such a sharing can survive even the breakdowns caused by illness and old age. Mental deterioration may disturb the free-and-equal give-and-take of married intercourse. One partner may no longer be able to think or speak as he or she once did. But the tenderness of humour and of a joke survives even this deadening interruption of the old relationship. Never mind about "caring": the main thing in a marriage of senility is to retain, from the resources of its past, enough mutual understanding to produce and prolong a togetherness of jokes.

John Bayley and his wife Dame Iris Murdoch have been married for 40 years. She has recently been diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

The pains can be defined more easily than the pleasures

## For marital bliss open an account

It is 9pm, and your husband has just arrived home. He should have been back an hour ago. Do you accuse him of being selfish and inconsiderate, just like he always is? Or do you commiserate with him about the heavy workload his boss has just dumped on him, and offer him a stiff drink?

According to Frank Fincham, Professor of Psychology at the University of Wales, Cardiff, and the country's foremost academic authority on marital relationships, the explanation you choose for your spouse's behaviour can influence the future of your marriage. Professor Fincham calls the selfish explanation "conflict-promoting"; the workload explanation is "relationship-enhancing".

"I have conducted four studies which track couples over time, and all showed that the interpretations give rise later on to marital satisfaction or dissatisfaction."

"Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a checklist of what makes a happy marriage. In the Sixties, everyone thought good marriages were based on a 'tit-for-tat' model, where good deeds by one spouse were reciprocated by the other. That's simply not

the case. Neither is a good marriage simply a mirror image of what makes a bad marriage. The best model for happy marriages is the bank account model, where a couple builds up an account of goodwill and behaviour, which each draws on from time to time.

"Tit-for-tat, or reciprocal behaviour, is actually a signature of a distressed marriage. Spouses get locked into a cycle of conflict, which escalates until one partner finds it unbearable and backs down. This pattern repeats itself because spouses learn it's a good tactic."

Professor Fincham also spotted something interesting while observing couples talking. The way they behaved towards each other seemed to happen too fast to be planned.

He explains: "There's a lot of cognitive processing that we are not aware of." As a result, he decided to investigate the way married people analyse their relationships. The simple study led him to

### MODELS OF MATRIMONY



There is no checklist for a happy marriage

"perhaps the most important finding of my career".

Participants were asked to give their reactions, by hitting a button, to 48 words. The list included evocative words such as ice-cream and death, but included four related to relationships: partner, spouse, wife or husband and the name of the participant's spouse. Their reactions were timed, and varied between

half a second and one second.

Professor Fincham discovered a surprising connection between speed of reaction, and stability of marital satisfaction. Those with the fastest response seemed to have the most consistent level of marital satisfaction, whether they were happy or unhappy. Those with slower responses displayed the greatest swings in happiness.

"It's an amazing finding," Professor Fincham says. "We have attitudes to everything, including our partners, and upon meeting spouses, some people will access their judgments more readily, and therefore register faster responses. It indicates how close to the surface some attitudes are. Even differences of a few milliseconds counted."

Exactly why being faster on the button is linked to a more consistent level of marital happiness is unclear. But Professor Fincham has a few ideas. In very simple terms, those people who view their

partners through rose-tinted spectacles will tend to interpret their partner's behaviour in this light. They take in little new information, and make an almost on-the-spot judgment. So, over time, they seem to be consistently satisfied.

Similarly, perhaps people who always have an uncharitable view of their spouse also tend to evaluate their partner's behaviour very quickly. As a result, they are consistently dissatisfied.

Slower respondents, whose emotions and attitudes are less instantly accessible, perhaps show a more malleable approach. That would allow them to interpret their partner's behaviour with less prejudice, and therefore experience greater swings in satisfaction levels.

Professor Fincham hopes to track how this accessibility varies over the course of a marriage. He has been awarded a grant of £144,000 by the Economic and Social Research Council, and is trying to recruit 200 pairs of newlyweds to assist, to date, 85 couples have stepped forward.

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# 'Regrets? — I've got hundreds'

Having come through the "lost years", Marianne Faithfull is back with a sell-out tour — but no answers to why her life turned out the way that it did. Interview by Noreen Taylor

I first met Marianne Faithfull in the late Seventies when she was married to her second husband, punk musician Ben Brierley. Reviews of her album *Broken English* had described her as a brilliant new discovery. It was so different from the previous decade when, as Mick Jagger's lady, both she and her hit *Tears Go By* had been treated as inconsequential pop froth.

Both Marianne and Ben were staying in the pretty Buckinghamshire cottage Jagger had bought for her mother. They were heroin addicts. Flaky, fragmented, unkempt creatures, they were unable to concentrate on any topic for very long. After a couple of hours, the interview disintegrated into a rambling gabble.

Eventually I left, despairing for them, convinced "rock star in death overdose" headlines were only months away. I underestimated Marianne. When we met again last week, 17 years on, I reminded her of that first meeting. "Oh, you must tell me all about it. I'm sure I liked you."

The transformation has been extraordinary. Not only in her looks — bright-eyed, sleek, shining hair, black trouser suit, a present from Calvin Klein (Marianne has always had great contacts) — but in the efficiently crisp manner with which she conducts herself.

Only the voice remains the same: a theatrical husk, a tribute to years of brandy and cigarettes. Even her facial scars, a hangover from street life, have an edgy appeal. Compared to the broken rock babe persona of the lost decades, this reincarnation has, by comparison, an almost Thatcherite briskness.

"Pictures. Right! You want me outside, then let's get going. Neil, cigarettes, please dear," she asks the publicist. "Would you mind? Know I'm not going to last."

We are in one of the drawing rooms of a neo-Gothic pile, Braziers Park, near Reading.



Early days: Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull in 1967

an educational establishment co-founded 50 years ago by her father, Glyn Faithfull, and where he now lives in retirement. Marianne is visiting him while on the European leg of her *An Evening in the Weimar Republic* concert tour. The show is a celebration of the music of Kurt Weill and the lyrics of Bertolt Brecht, both long-time passions of Marianne. It has been playing to sell-out audiences across America, and earning ecstatic reviews describing her as one of the finest interpreters of that rich musical heritage of the inter-war years.

I tell her she looks pleased and at peace with herself. "Well, I feel I'm finally doing what I was always supposed to do, except I didn't have that trust in life, so I resisted. I

usually wake up happy these days, though not in a smug way."

Asked to describe herself, she opts for sensitive. "Deeply so, maybe drugs were the only way for me to cope." Regrets? "Hundreds, though I'm not eaten up by them. I try to stay in the here and now."

"If I hadn't wasted so many years, I'd probably be at the point I've reached now, anyway. Should I have taken the planned path, studied music at the Royal Academy, and sung Mozart for the last 20 years, I'd probably have discovered Weill and still be doing exactly what I am now. Instead I chose the empirical route... Oh Lord, I'm sorry." She breaks off for a moment, groaning, rubbing her forehead in irritation as though she can't face another question.

"It's just that I feel so inadequate when it comes to explaining myself, my motives, my lost years, my mistakes, my addictions. I don't really have any answers you know."

People think I must have after what I've been through, but I can't explain myself, or the circuitous journey I took. Sometimes, I quiver in fury at the waste, other times I believe I must have quite liked doing whatever I did. That I have a need for drama has never been in dispute, it's just that I'm unable to come up with reasons for what happened.

She obviously tried. I remind her of *Faithfull*, the autobiography published three years ago detailing a life that went from living with Jagger in Chelsea splendour to hanging out homeless on top of a Soho wall. "Oh, that book. It was too dark, made everything so traumatic and caused so many problems, especially with my son," Nicholas, 31, her only child, born when she was 19 and married to John Dunbar, is now father of a four-year-old son, Oscar.

"I mean Nicholas is just here in London doing his life, and my reminiscences were understandably too painful for him. And yes, of course I'm friendly with John, and Ben

too, who is now clean and running an antique shop.

"Yes, I'm friends with Mick too. And why not? Sharing so much of your life with people you've loved, how can you not be friends? Drugs were my downfall, nothing to do with Mick, who I have a great respect for. Such a talented man, and still writing beautiful songs."

"A few weeks ago in New York he sent a limousine round to pick me up after my show. He wanted me to join him in a studio where he was recording with Charlie and Keith, and we just sat around for hours talking, drinking coffee, enjoying each other. I'm not competing with the Stones anymore you see, so it's cool. I'm out of that equation. In fact most of my audiences don't associate me with Mick and that period. They're too young for all those rock chick icon memories."

Arriving at the recent *Vanity Fair* Oscar night party, Marianne was met at the doorway by Bianca Jagger who insisted: "Mick's over there. You've got to go and talk to him."

The three share a history positively operatic with drama. Marianne's suicide attempt and drug habits finally closed her relationship with Jagger. He and Bianca parted after a most acrimonious divorce. Yet there they were huddled together for most of the evening.

Since 1985, after six months of treatment paid for by one of her saviours, Island Records, Marianne has lived mostly in Ireland, in the romantic Shell Cottage, part of the 1,000-acre Carton estate, west of Dublin.

"Shan't be living there anymore," she says. "Cost too much. So I'm going to do something I've never done in my life before. I'm going to buy a house, probably by the sea in Co Wicklow. Nothing extravagant, because I don't have lots of money, which is why I have to work so hard. Decorating a house, that'll be my latest joy."

What about love? Men? Had she resigned from those joys? "I used to have a terrible block about falling in love. I'd been hurt so many times that I couldn't allow myself to do so. Being pretty, I used to be so easily manipulated by flattery, then I decided to block it all off for a while. Safety, that's what I thought I wanted. Then you may as well be dead."

"I'm in love now, since you ask. Very much so, and no, I won't say who he is, although it's quite a big thing. Loving someone and being loved, couldn't do any of that when I was an addict. You see, when you're on drugs you're locked out of everything, including relationships. Your habit is the only thing that counts."

"Nowadays, I prefer the solitary life. I don't drive, I live in the Irish countryside, so I'd have to have found some measure of peace. I feel completely at home in Ireland, accepted, part of the rhythm. There are too many ghosts in London. I'd feel haunted living there, although I love popping across to see friends, and of course my grandson."

Still a smoker, does she miss drink? "I have the occasional glass of champagne and there are times when only a gin and tonic will do, but no I don't miss any of it. Doctors can't believe how healthy I am. I have to be careful though, I'm always going to have to watch



The transformation from the rock babe of the lost decades has been extraordinary. Only the voice remains the same

it. Going to bed straight after a show with a bowl of cornflakes and a book is what I do now."

"When I was young I could stay up for four nights and still look wonderful. Not any more. Can't think of anything that would make me stay up all night now. Apart from... oh, all right then, the right man might make me stay up all night."

Gales of bawdy laughter follow, reminding you the raver has not been completely eclipsed by the woman, however resolute and business-like she may appear.

"Please, I have an aversion to the horn-ragain supposition,"

she pleads. "I prefer the cooler language of regeneration. Coming back to myself is what I've succeeded in doing. During the last two years of my mother's life when I was clean, I don't think she liked me quite as much. Too straight, I used to tell her that finally she was getting all of me."

"That's what I've ended up with. Nonetheless, I would never dare go around crying victory. To me that would be the greatest folly of all."

Marianne Faithfull will be performing *An Evening at the Weimar Republic* at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London, from tomorrow until Saturday.

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# Major is just not up to the job

Anatole Kaletsky on the Tories' catalogue of farces and fiascos

When John Major has to make an important decision, he allegedly takes a blank sheet of paper, draws a line down the middle and lists all the pros and cons on either side. In the last full week of campaigning before the election, it seems appropriate to treat Mr Major the same way. The process is hard to encapsulate in a single article, and every voter's judgment must remain his or her own. Why then am I about to "break the habit of a lifetime by discussing my voting intention", as Simon Jenkins wrote on this page last week? Partly, no doubt, because I hope to persuade some readers to agree with me.

The main point of doing this is to explore the central mystery of this election and, indeed, of everything that has happened in British politics over the past few years. There are plenty of reasons why Labour may be elected, not least the vague desire for a change of political scenery after 18 years. But could such inchoate restlessness be enough to impel the greatest electoral landslide for 50 years? Is it why Tony Blair may end up with a bigger majority than Margaret Thatcher or Clement Attlee ever enjoyed?

The answer must surely be no. But even supposing that people are lying to the pollsters, why are they lying in unprecedented numbers? Why are they so embarrassed to support the Tories? What has the Government done to earn such contempt? People are not starving in the streets. The country has not been defeated in war, *pace* the Eurosceptics. The economy may not be performing brilliantly, but it is certainly doing no worse than five years ago. So what is going on?

Let us return to Mr Major's blank sheet of paper. On the credit side of the ledger there are numerous worthy achievements to his name: defeating inflation, running a sensible economic policy after Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism, expanding higher education, improving public services (even while others have been allowed to crumble), steering a pragmatic middle course in relations with Europe, and so on. Most of these achievements would probably be maintained if the Tories were re-elected, despite the infighting and political chaos that would doubtless ensue. On the debit side of the ledger there are major strands of policy which would motivate me, for one, to vote against — the mismanagement of macroeconomics before White Wednesday, the disregard for the public interest in the environment and transport, the total indifference to the widening gap between rich and poor.

I could, of course, add many more policies to both sides of this account. But no listing of policies that I could imagine would be so uneven on the two sides of the ledger as to explain why Mr Major's Government has become the least electable in 50 years. To do that, we must add items of a different

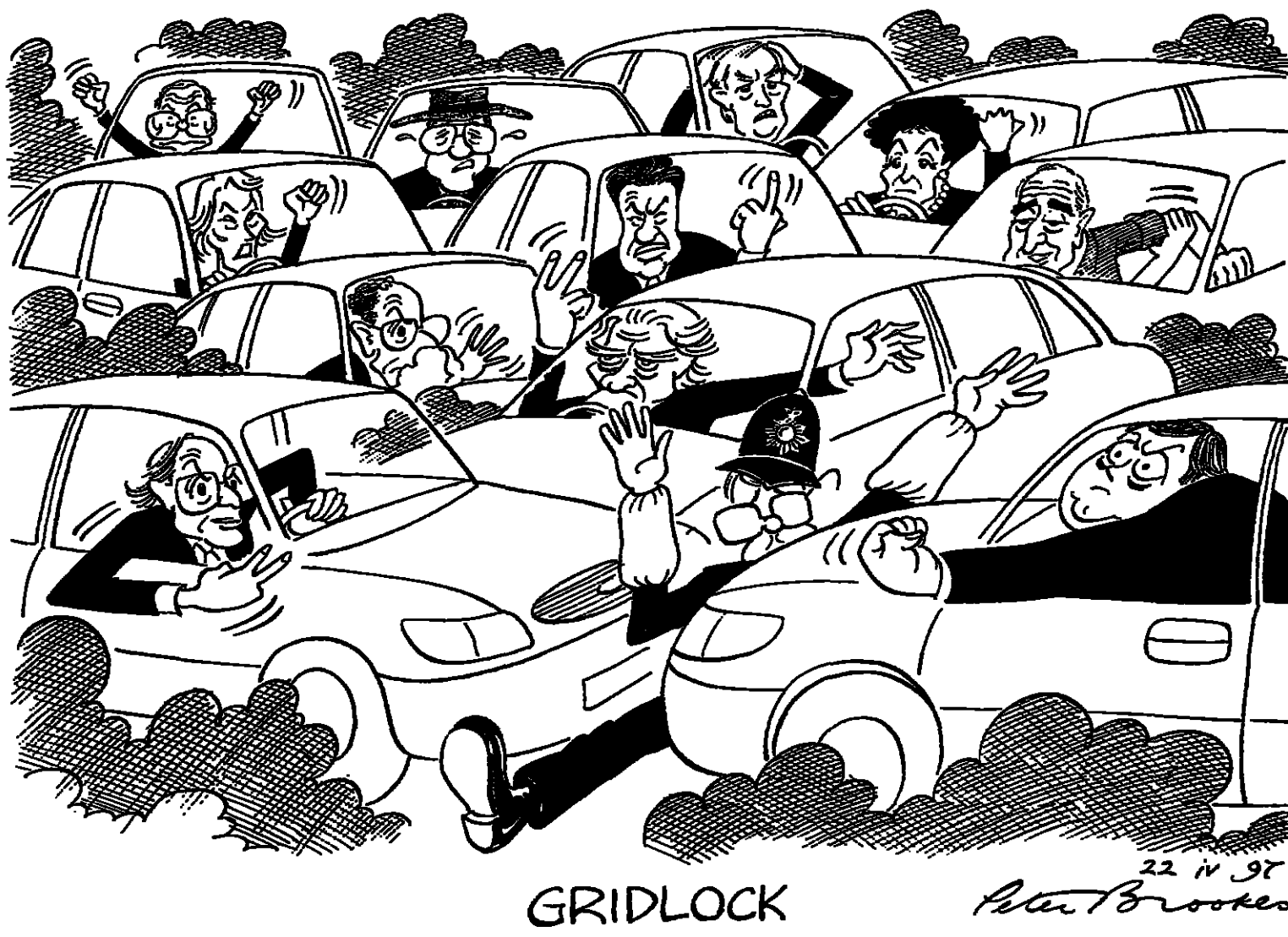
kind to the list. A government is elected not merely to implement the policies it advertised in its manifesto. Policies, on the whole, are invented by boffins and implemented by civil servants. Politicians must, of course, set priorities, but their most important and challenging task, especially in a period of ideological consensus, is not to put forward programmes, but to deal with the unexpected. "Events, old boy, events," as Macmillan famously replied when asked to describe the greatest challenge that any prime minister faced.

The chief executive of a reasonably stable and successful company is usually selected not because of the new corporate strategy he proposes but, rather, on his record of competent management, of appointing and promoting the right people and of reacting to unexpected opportunities and threats.

It is when we come to the random and unpredictable events that have buffeted Mr Major that the two sides of the ledger show a tragicomic asymmetry. The Danish referendum, White Wednesday, the Maastricht paving debate, the Mellor scandal, the sacking of Norman Lamont, the "back to basics" fiasco, the election of Jacques Santer, the mad cow crisis, the "whipless" Tory rebellion, the bungled Cabinet reshuffles, the Scott report, the scandals over the Child Support Agency and the management of prisons, the endless aborted relaunches and impotent assertions of authority, right down to the latest fiasco over Neil Hamilton and free votes on European monetary union — the catalogue of tactical errors, misjudgments, confusion and pathetically ineffectual leadership just goes on and on.

None of these farces and fiascos on its own could explain the public contempt for John Major's Government. But putting them all together shows a pattern of unrelieved incompetence the like of which has rarely been seen before. While there have been many governments whose deliberate policies have produced worse results for the British people than have Mr Major's, there has never been a government as helpless and incompetent as this one in responding to unexpected pressures and in managing the nation's political affairs from day to day. That, I suspect, is why voters have turned against the Tories in such numbers.

Mr Major is a charming and affable person, who is understandably liked by the voters. But the voters have also realised he is simply incapable of being Prime Minister. If he cannot run the 350 Tory MPs, how on earth can he hope to run the country? Whether Tony Blair will prove a capable Prime Minister is another matter: no one has ever claimed that democracy is a foolproof system for guaranteeing good governments. What democracy can — and must — do is elect a government that is clearly not up to the job.



## Donors, duty, dread

One sister has leukaemia; the other has the right bone marrow but fears hospitals

The headline said "Sentenced to die by my sister", and beside it was a blurred picture of two pretty girls in happier days. "A mother is facing death from leukaemia because her sister refuses to donate her bone marrow."

Worse, it was true. Mrs Angela Latham of Blackpool is precariously kept alive by drugs; her bone marrow type is rare and her sister Susan is the only perfect match. Transplantation would have a 60 per cent chance of success. But as the hospital record economically puts it, "It is unfortunate that her sister does not like hospitals". Susan Squires came close to donating, but withdrew out of fear. After a period of family estrangement, the patient, Mrs Latham, chose "to try one last throw of the dice" by deliberately making the story public.

So this is not a case of press intrusion, although there is something excruciating in the exposure of details such as the sick woman's young son going round to plead with his Auntie Sue. The family has painfully invaded its own privacy — but it may have worked. The next day we were told that Miss Squires is thinking again, particularly as it now transpires that she might not need to go into hospital. One might ask why the doctors originally concerned in this case could not have suggested this without involving us media vultures, but never mind. There may yet be a happy outcome, and if so the staring, blaring press will have played some part.

This will be even more valuable if it makes us reflect how thin is the veneer of casual everyday acceptance in such matters. It is easy to think otherwise: blood donors are taken for granted and barely thanked — indeed, the nation is gruffly told off when supplies run low. Placentas are sold for medical use without anybody even mentioning it to mothers, and every week's news brings a fresh miracle, from donor ova to sections of liver which re-grow in a new body.

Hardly an eyebrow was raised when Nicola Horlick, in the flurry of interviews when she became a wronged celebrity supermother, said that one reason she went on having children was in the hope of producing a perfect marrow donor match for her eldest. There is a vague consensus that any decent person, adult or child, would willingly hand over any

dispensable part of his or her body to save a life. And of course, many do. There is a large bank of bone-marrow donors, acting out of pure altruism towards strangers.

We determinedly focus on the bright scientific veneer and suppress the old primitive horrors of hospitals and passivity, white coats and needles and knives and anaesthetics. Doctors can be downright impatient with anybody who dreads them, so it was heartening to read the compassionate letter to *The Times* yesterday from Professor Ian Franklin, a consultant in the bone-marrow transplant unit at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He boldly spoke up for the "reasonable fears and anxieties" of poor Susan Squires, and robustly said that "it would be inappropriate to make light of the general anaesthetic and post-operative pain that marrow donors must endure". Donors, he says, should be counselled by an independent but knowledgeable doctor.

Poor Miss Squires. Such respect and protection was stripped from her by the ineptitude which led to the leukaemia victim, her sister, belittling her fears as "aches and pains", and throwing doubt on her sanity, while her brother-in-law mused aloud about whether a large bribe would change her mind. Their expressed harshness is understandable, because a diagnosis as serious as leukaemia throws whole families into a warlike survival mode in which they would dare or endure anything. This can make them very angry with anybody less burningly committed. Usually their target is the hospital which seems to be withholding expensive treatment, or the cautious doctor who won't put patients in for an untried drug. In the Blackpool case, the target was a scared sister, and it seems that there are few NHS systems or instincts to defuse such conflict. Why else did it take a press splash for the poor woman to be informed that she could give the stuff at home?

Hospital-phobia and operation-phobia are real enough. There are mothers who ask to die rather than undergo Caesareans, women who adopt children rather than endure childbirth, and people who prefer appalling pain to skilful dentistry. The roots of the terror may lie in childhood, in timidity, stupidity, even history. It is not so very long since hospitals were grim and dangerous places. One of my own elderly relatives, drawing on her own parents' Victorian dreads, still besmirches the reputation of this scientific age by pointing to hospitals and intoning

"Them as goes in there — they never come out". When I was to give birth, she observed darkly that she had thought of me as she bought her remembrance poppy: the connection between the carnage of Mons and the plate-glass façade of the maternity hospital was obvious, to her. These things linger on. If you are afraid of hospitals it may not be reasonable but it is perfectly explicable. Hospital revulsion is just the flip side of the hospital fascination which fuels all those TV dramas.

Donation and transplantation give another turn to the screw. It is hard enough to have one of those conditions where you go into hospital feeling healthy and are made to feel ill; even harder to submit to "procedures" when neither the illness nor the cure is your own. Those who do it, for either family or strangers, should be given more credit. But if we are to honour the courage of those who lie down and donate, whether in the small matter of blood or the large matter of kidneys, we have to admit how much self-discipline and counter-intuitive faith it takes, even in those who are not phobic.

This is an unpopular thing to do. A few years ago *Coronation Street* had a rattling good plot going in which Tracey, the bratty teenage daughter of Deirdre Rashid, took a bad party drug and ended up with total kidney

failure. By soap-operative chance, the only possible donor was her mother's new husband, a nice Moroccan boy called Samir to whom Tracey had been consistently foul. It was leaked in advance that Samir would agree to give a kidney, and would die in the process, with pleasingly dramatic effects on the relationship between widowed mother and cured daughter.

There was discreet uproar: donor organisations and the medical profession protested that this was unlikely, and that such a plot would set their cause back years. The milder proposal that Samir die of "a rare allergy to the anaesthetic" was found equally deplorable, so the programme backed off and had him murdered on his way to hospital. The programme-makers do not use the word "pressure" to describe what they experienced, but pressure is all around. Medical science presses us to accept blithely operations and interventions which even a few decades ago would have been terrifying to contemplate.

We are taught to have our children's teeth straightened (even, sometimes, jaws reset) for purely aesthetic reasons; to make light of the cutting and pinning of cosmetic surgery, and to consider Caesarean birth as an "option" rather than a last resort. One American clinic famously advertised it as a way "to keep your tubes honeymoon fresh". We are told about women who donate ova as if they were handing over Danish pastries, not undergoing powerful hormonal treatment and invasive surgery. The other day our local news told us of a woman who found an egg donor by putting an advertisement in the newspaper's window.

Thus yesterday's unthinkable becomes today's orthodoxy: so when a young woman so phobic about hospitals that she can't even visit one feels unable to spend two days there and have a tube put in her bone, she is held up to national contumely as the woman who "signed her sister's death-warrant". Unnatural, unfair.

Re-reading this, I see that I shall be vilified for encouraging stupid fears. Never mind. It is not healthy to let any fear stalk about in disguise ashamed to speak its name. You have to see the enemy to fight it, and we may as well. After all, the one sure thing is that before long someone will find a new bit of us that can help the sick. The finger points. It could be a bit of you.

## Libby Purves

## Skint reward

DEEPLY in debt and now panicking, the Oxford Union Society is paying the price for years of mismanagement by undergraduates and naked publicity seeking. Reports have the Union's debts reaching as high as £80,000.

"We're a student society and occasionally things may happen that are of a regrettable nature," says Oliver Evans, the current president. "This happens in all societies." Not all societies, however, accede to a demand from Diego Maradona, the Argentine footballer, to be flown to Britain with family and retinue on Concorde, as the Union did in 1995.

"The cash crashdown was due to the Union being run by inexperienced 19 and 20-year-olds, insisting it prided itself on being run by students and that expert help was always at hand," says Evans. "The exact form of the debt is a matter for a standing committee."

A series of publicity lapses, such as inviting O.J. Simpson and Page Three girls to speak, has dragged the Union dangerously into Max Clifford territory.

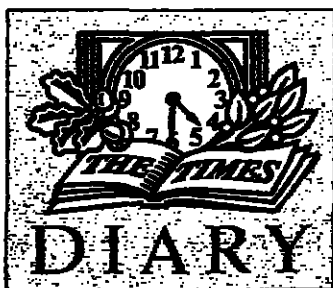
"They are unlikely to get anything like the £1 million the Union got from Mitsubishi in 1988," says

one former president. "Simply because they insist on filling the place with lascivious anoraks rather than decent debaters."

My prize for the most deconstructed political comment of the general election goes to a man parading up and down Putney High Street, the heart of David Mellor's constituency, pushing a wheelbarrow. In it is a large plastic toe.



"But these sprouts taste just like sprouts"



Around his neck hangs a sign: "Mellor Sucks".

### Liver boys

WHILE his correspondents were traipsing after politicians at the weekend, John Birt, the Director-General of the BBC, was going back to his Liverpool roots on a trip to Paul McCartney's former home.

The mid-terrace former council house in Forthlin Road was bought by the National Trust after Birt — a Beatles nut and Cavern Club regular — discovered that it was for sale two years ago and tipped them off. On Saturday, he achieved a lifelong ambition when he set foot in the small dishevelled room where John, Paul and George first played together to the fury of the neighbours. Birt, who once stood in as the bouncer in a Beatles gig, is ad-

vising on the imminent restoration of the house, and is drawing heavily for his information on his Scouser friend Sir Paul McCartney.

### Huffin' and

LITERARY sorts are fluttering with excitement about the sale next month of one of the most important post-war archives from the world of children's publishing. All the books and author correspondence of Kaye Webb, the longstanding Puffin Books editor and formidable creator of the Puffin Club, are to be auctioned by Sotheby's.



Birt in Beatles days

Letters from a huge portfolio of authors, artists and others come with the archive. James Mason, on his deathbed, wrote a reliable godparent; Max Beerbaum apologising for having mistaken Kaye for a man; Roald Dahl on the fear of never being asked to sign books — and many others, including letters from Yehudi Menuhin, Peggy Ashcroft, Laurens van der Post and Laurie Lee.

After seeing the extensive graphic of Labour's Millbank campaign headquarters in this newspaper yesterday, Alistair Campbell, Blair's press secretary, was on the prowl. "They made out I only had one desk," he told anyone in earshot. "Actually I've got two desks." Hence his new epithet: "Two-desks" Campbell.

### Scroll up

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan's uncle once tried to set up the illegal sale of the most important of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Temple Scroll, to the American government. According to recently declassified Foreign Office documents, the late Sharif Nasser, a man said to have had a finger in every loaf in the Middle East, approached the US Ambassador in Amman, Sheldon Mills, with his dodgy deal.



Nasser: scroll-grabber

Mills wrote that Sharif asked "if I would be interested in buying for America an antiquity now in the hands of his Bedouin friends, which from his description could not be anything but another Dead Sea Scroll."

Mills felt it his duty to report Nasser's treachery to his nephew the King, but did so in the most diplomatic terms. The British Ambassador was blunter in his report to London, saying Sharif was a habitual and well-known scroll-grabber.

P.H.S

## Politics as an end in itself

Roger Scruton on a new ruling class of Labour activists

New Labour came into being because old Labour was feared. You don't win elections by frightening people. Labour's manifesto should be read as a sequence of recantations, each designed to allay one of the anxieties which cost Neil Kinnock the last election. And there is something admirable in the way that Tony Blair has made this *via negativa* into a shining promise. But the Labour leadership should be sharply distinguished from the Parliamentary Labour Party. It is the tenor and composition of the party that causes me to think that Labour is still the greater of the evils between which we must shortly choose.

I adhere to an old-fashioned, some would say superannuated, Tory vision. My ideal government is one without ideals, a cheerful but disenchanting government which respects people's independence and assumes that they bear ultimate responsibility for their lives. Politics, to my thinking, ought not to be organised around a social programme, or any programme not implicit in the idea of government itself. Politics exists in order that the competing interests of the people can be brokered and resolved. Its purpose is neither business nor social engineering, but the maintenance of social equilibrium and the defence of the realm.

Members of Parliament should not begin their careers in politics, but should come to politics from some other walk of life, and in a spirit of exasperation. They should regard legislation as a painstaking procedure, and a solution of last resort to conflicts that ought if possible to be settled by other means. The greatest defects in a Member of Parliament are therefore not those which capture the attention of the tabloids: the human weaknesses which they share with the rest of us and which, when all is said and done, make them into our fit representatives. Their greatest defects are the two which arise from professional politics itself: middle-someness and half-education.

My ideal party is not fired by the ambition to reform institutions, but by a desire to conserve them, while recognising, with Edmund Burke, the need to "reform in order to conserve". It does not tinker with things long established and rarely complained of, knowing that it is always easier to destroy than to create. It contains educated people, but erects barriers against the half-educated — those hyperactive intellects who know enough to ask questions but not enough to understand that the real questions are unanswerable. It is suspicious of nothing so much as the political process itself, and seeks to confine politics to the areas where wise decisions can be taken in no other way — issues of law and order, defence and the national interest. It believes in a strong State, but a State above politics, guardian of civil society against external and internal threat. It is founded on the belief that society renews itself from below, from the enterprise and goodwill of its members, and not from above, by transferring income from the prudent and the diligent to those least likely to invest it.

Judged by that venerable ideal, new Labour remains seriously defective. Its parliamentary intake abounds in the middle-class and the half-educated: people for whom discontent and agitation have been a way of life, who have made their careers in politics and whose greatest successes have involved the coercing of others. It remains the natural friend of bureaucracies, and its more vociferous members remain committed to using schools as instruments of social engineering, rather than making their reservoirs of knowledge. It has no rooted objection to legislation imposed on us by the European Union, and little appreciation of the fact that our national sovereignty is bound up with the workings of the common law, and is inherently threatened by the Napoleonic jurisdiction that prevails in Europe. Its proposals for constitutional reform are a means to create jobs for the political professionals, while the removal of voting rights from peers who are not political appointees will finally extinguish the voice of the amateur in the legislative process.

New Labour seems happy with the worst of the Tories' innovations — including the National Curriculum and the National Lottery. If it rises above the philistinism of the managerial Conservative, this is only because it remains suspicious of business, being composed of people who have enjoyed a free ride on the back of the State. Like managerial Tories, it sees loyalty as a purchasable commodity rather than an inherited duty, and the sublime conception of the Crown as the living symbol of our unity means little or nothing to its members.

None of this is to doubt the good faith of new Labour or its leaders. But the party speaks for the class that is governing everywhere in Europe: the class of political professionals whose function is to mediate between national and local bureaucracies, and which justifies its existence through constant legislation and irrational reforms. I am persuaded that the Tory party, for all its faults, remains our best hope that this class will not gain the monopoly over politics that it has achieved across the Channel.

DEMOCRACY

ESCAPE FROM

EAT UP YOUR















# Turner keeps his sights set on the main prize



THE antics of the hapless David James at Anfield on Saturday may have gone a long way to handing the 1997 FA Carling Premiership title to Manchester United, but in Interactive Team Football, the race is still far from over.

As the season nears its climax, there are 12 selectors who are realistically in contention for the £50,000 prize. Although it would be unwise to write off the chances of those teams lower than twelfth, recent form suggests that they are unlikely to do so.

Mr P. Turner, of St Helier, Jersey, remains the overall leader this week, eight points clear of his nearest rival. However, it will not have gone unnoticed by keen students of ITF that the Nobby teams, under the aegis of Mr J. Brown, have been slowly edging closer towards the top over the past few weeks.

The winner of the £250 weekly prize is Mr D. Ford, with his (inappropriately named) team Losers Eleven. Mr Ford scored 33 points over the week.

Mr Ford's team is:

Goalkeeper  
M Crossley (Nottm Forest)

Full backs  
T McKinlay (Celtic)  
D Robertson (Rangers)

Central defenders  
T Boyd (Celtic)  
A McLaren (Rangers)

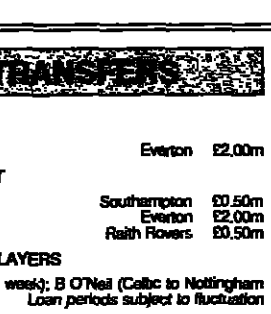
Midfield players  
D Batty (Newcastle)  
R Di Matteo (Chelsea)  
J Redknapp (Liverpool)  
M Thomas (Liverpool)



Pallister celebrates his first goal for Manchester United at Anfield — but had you selected him in your ITF team?



Strikers  
T Coyne (Motherwell)  
I Rush (Leeds)



The ITF transfer system allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250. All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 468 122.

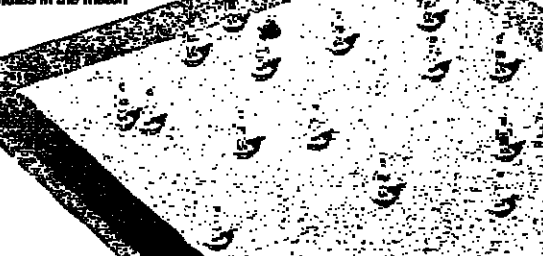
## HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Belfair Scottish League premier division and Tensworts Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores goal	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores hat-trick	3pts
Scores goal	1pt	Manager	1pt
Midfield player	1pt	Team wins	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts	Team draws	1pt
Scores goal	1pt		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

\* must have played for 75 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



## Play Interactive Team Cricket for your chance to win £10,000



Full details of how to enter appear in the 16-page Cricket '97 supplement which was free with last Monday's paper. For a copy call 0171-481 3355.



## CHANGING TIMES



## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out: Club \_\_\_\_\_

Player in: Club \_\_\_\_\_


Player code: \_\_\_\_\_

IN			
61102	Dave Watson	Everton	22.00m
OUT			
42008	Paul Thistle	Southern	22.00m
51104	Paul Redout	Everton	22.00m
62302	John Hunter	Raith Rovers	22.00m
LOANED PLAYERS			
N Gudmundsson	(Blackburn to Ipswich, one week)	B O'Neil	(Celtic to Nottingham Forest, end of season)

## THE LEAGUE £250 ENTIRELY IN THE HANDS OF THE INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Team	(Player's name)		
1	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	749	109	Def Con 3	(M Pack)	635	180	St Bartholomew	(J M Bartholomew)
2	Edno Utd	(D Edmondson)	741	109	Animals	(L Clark)	635	180	Oct95-ITF Champ	(M Sladden)
3	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	739	109	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	635	180	Sacharita	(R Keenan)
4	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	733	115	Caroline D	(A Luckhurst)	634	180	Xpet Missiles	(M Jackson)
5	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	728	115	AJK	(K Hughes)	634	180	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)
6	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	725	115	AE	(K Fawcett)	634	180	Dave's First XI	(D Quibell)
7	John Hunt Taurion D	(J Hunt)	721	115	AE	(K Fawcett)	634	180	Nicholas Tigers	(T Nicholas)
7	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	721	119	Murray's Magicians	(M MacMillan)	633	180	Three Tabletoppers	(M A Kennedy)
9	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	720	119	Top Banana	(M Bottomley)	633	190	Grimm's Army	(S Gray)
10	Brain's Team	(S Howes)	716	121	Glen Duffies	(S Wilson)	632	190	Totter Five	(E Kibby)
10	John Hunt Taurion H	(J Hunt)	716	121	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	632	190	Lynne's Lions	(L Holmes)
12	Pins Ups Two	(P Tustler)	714	121	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	632	190	Henrik	(P Williamson)
13	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	709	124	No Mistletoe	(J B Woodward)	631	190	Scholar Zoo	(A Scholten)
14	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	703	124	NST Monkstone	(J Staszewicz)	631	195	Alameda FC	(M Haggard)
15	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	702	126	Caught Lucky	(C Wright)	630	195	Wassens	(A Luckhurst)
16	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	700	126	Ebbey's 1st XI	(S Baldick)	630	195	Caroline A	(J Murray)
16	Nonchalant AFC 3	(R J Ward)	700	128	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	629	195	Demolition Men	(M Larcombe)
16	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	700	128	Bob's Boys 5	(R Calder)	629	195	Burwell Utd 3	(J W George)
16	Bob's Boys 2	(J Calder)	700	130	Barnet Boys	(A Sharpe)	627	195	Tungston Town	(J Pregon)
20	icarus	(S Wells)	698	130	Alfred	(I Fyfe)	627	195	Kingbury Tn 1	(E G King)
21	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	698	132	Inter The Bin	(M Ward)	626	203	Mapleleppers	(P Rick)
22	AB 4	(A Boyland)	697	132	Agapehouse FC	(W Heslop)	625	203	Back In Bristol	(D Stone)
23	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	693	134	Mum Fantasy Leagueers	(M Macken)	625	203	Roberts-Team 1	(M Roberts)
24	John Hunt Taurion G	(J Hunt)	692	134	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	625	203	Dinamo Moscow	(D Wilson)
25	Swettenham Celtic	(S McGivern)	690	134	Foxy	(M Bremner)	625	207	No Help From Dad FC	(A du Gay)
25	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	688	137	Caroline C	(S A Luckhurst)	624	207	Widow Field Splash	(A McEvoy)
27	Daggers	(V Cox)	688	137	Northern Lights	(C Wright)	624	207	Nadar	(J Swire)
28	Jabberwocky	(P A Amoss)	688	137	Raj Is Back To Kili 5	(J Hunt)	624	208	JS August Monthly 2	(H A Rahim)
29	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	680	141	John Hunt Taurion A	(J Hunt)	623	208	Raven's Dream Team	(M Rawn)
30	Utd Boys Utd 1	(S Gardner)	678	141	It's About Revenge C	(R Goh)	623	208	Inverness United	(M A Kennedy)
31	Alce	(M Barber)	678	141	SE August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	623	208	Styline Strollers	(K Farwell)
32	A	(M Corless)	676	141	Alce	(I Pigeon)	623	208	Fortune Hunters	(K Thomas)
33	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	674	144	Come On You Rockers	(J Brown)	622	208	Celtic Fighters	(L Emery)
33	Partick Bello 3	(J Hamilton)	674	144	Grafton Willows	(R Johnson)	622	208	The Winners VW	(V Wadwa)
33	Where's My Gone?	(P Fromm)	674	144	Inter Outers	(M MacMillan)	621	216	Lloyd's Range	(D Goodwin)
33	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	674	144	Goalkeepers	(G Wales)	621	216	March Pass	(M McGovern)
37	BCFC 1998	(J Bithell)	673	144	Styford	(A Burton)	621	216	John Hunt Taurion B	(J Hunt)
37	Slythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	673	144	Star Chamber	(M Woodley)	621	216	Crooky Boys	(R Crook)
38	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	671	149	C U O K	(G Wales)	621	216	Jack's Nightmares	(N J Lane)
38	Schools For Goals	(K Scott)	671	149	Silly No Mistle XI	(C Haddock)	620	222	Sed & Grim Team	(J Swin)
39	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	671	149	Silly No Mistle XI	(C Haddock)	620	222	Sooty's Puppets II	(E G Ryan)
42	Storm	(P Mills)	670	154	Brakes	(L Lane)	620	222	Botat United 1	(J Puri)
43	Bladderburners	(P Walters)	669	154	Porcelain Dogs	(A Bilton)	619	222	Nanah's Heroes	(C Barnett)
44	Teddy Three	(B Bear)	667	154	Cookie's Gussers	(P Pym)	619	222	Nellie's Heroes	(T Fox)
44	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	667	154	Wingless Wonders	(G Prichard)	619	222	The Indestructors	(K Curran)
44	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	666	154	Diplomatic Risk	(T Blythe)	619	222	Kidding Around	(J Dwyer)
47	Tur	(A Bates)	666	158	Bob Hope And No Hope	(J Brown)	618	229	Dryer's Tipsters	(S Miller)
48	JJB Sports	(J Hunter)	664	158	Vast	(P Pym)	618	229	Dynamo Hills	(K James)
49	Walsley FC	(M Kirkwood)	664	162	Palat One	(D Blair)	618	229	Clive From Down Under	(C Dodd)
49	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	664	162	Holsternites	(G Watson)	618	229	Dodd's Aces	(C Dodd)
49	John Hunt Taurion F	(J Hunt)	664	162	Burg Hol	(J Brown)	618	229	David's Utd 1	(T Prior)
52	Kryotank 2	(S Roberts)	662	162	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	617	235	Beam Up	(L Sweeney)
53	Midfield Magic	(J Pregon)	661	162	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swire)	617	235	Toby's Terrors 7	(P Wadley)
53	Garforth Seashells	(I Daugherty)	661	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Sue's Stars	(S Latham)
55	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	660	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	The Dashers	(C Cavers)
55	Irish's Best	(L Sampson)	660	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Red Star Storm	(P Mills)
55	Club 19-30 Toms	(A Robson)	660	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Real Ale Ripon	(D Sloan)
55	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	660	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Robella	(T Wyle)
59	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	659	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Solid Saints	(P Rick)
59	Thom Foolery FC	(M Horn)	659	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	The Wes Rovers	(D O'Donnell)
61	Mistle	(V Guimaraes)	658	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	AC Cambridge	(L Hoe)
62	Always Portugal 1	(M Barber)	658	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Flying Pigs	(M Macmillan)
64	Bonley Boys	(R Crook)	654	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Inter The Net	(M Ward)
64	Ferr Academicale	(A Greenwood)	654	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Frank FC	(N Flood)
66	You're Not Very Well	(R Laskowski)	653	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	Alexpool	(C Strachan)
68	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	653	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235		
68	John Hunt Taurion C	(J Hunt)	652	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235		
69	Tully's Tops	(J Tully)	651	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235		
69	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	651	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235		

### FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Cells cost 50p per minute.

Call the ITF checkline on  
**0891 884 643**  
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Team	(Player's name)	
69	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	651	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	
72	Gestalt	(R Rowe)	650	141	SE August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	
72	Concrete Banana	(S Wingle)	650	141	Alce	(I Pigeon)	623	208	
74	Inter The Wallst	(M Ward)	649	144	Come On You Rockers	(J Brown)	622	208	
75	PJB Rovers	(P J Butler)	647	144	Grafton Willows	(R Johnson)	622	208	
75	Murray's Mates	(D Anderson)	647	144	Inter Outers	(M MacMillan)	621	216	
75	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	647	144	Goalkeepers	(G Wales)	621	216	
75	Caroline 8	(A Luckhurst)	647	144	Styford	(A Burton)	621	216	
75	Elmore United	(P Leader)	647	149	Star Chamber	(M Woodley)	621	216	
75	Bob's Boys 3	(R Calder)	647	149	C U O K	(G Wales)	621	216	
75	Man City Free Zone	(D Ingram)	647	149	Silly No Mistle XI	(C Haddock)	620	222	
82	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	645	149	Silly No Mistle XI	(C Haddock)	620	222	
87	Born Losers	(P Perkins)	644	154	Brakes	(L Lane)	620	222	
87	Joking	(P Fellen)	644	154	The Far Side	(C Haddock)	620	222	
88	1970 Jc FC	(J Ross)	644	154	Gangsters	(A Lane)	620	222	
88	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	644	154	Porcelain Dogs	(A Bilton)	619	222	
88	Orviato Classico	(J Bradshaw)	643	154	Cookie's Gussers	(S Cook)	620	222	
88	The Dummies 1	(D Shiels)	643	158	Wingless Wonders	(P Pym)	619	222	
88	Enid Four	(J Feather)	643	158	Diplomatic Risk	(G Prichard)	619	222	
88	John Hunt Taurion E	(J Hunt)	642	158	Bob Hope And No Hope	(J Brown)	618	229	
89	Nobby 1	(J Brown)	642	162	Vast	(P Pym)	618	229	
92	Ball Watchers	(J Murray)	641	162	Palat One	(D Blair)	618	229	
92	Burwell Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	641	162	Holsternites	(G Watson)	618	229	
92	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	641	162	Burg Hol	(J Brown)	618	229	
92	Mars FC	(G Baber)	641	162	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	617	235	
96	Brainbow United	(G Watson)	640	162	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swire)	617	235	
96	Infinity George	(M Robson)	640	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	
98	Jones Boys One	(M Jones)	639	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	
98	Team C	(A Lane)	639	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	
98	Doppelgangereut	(J Whelling)	639	162	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swire)	617	235	
98	Yell	(K Hewson)	639	171	Triple Top Ten	(P Bailey)	617	235	
102	Nail Madrid	(N Ratcliffe)	638	171	Supernova	(T Taylor)	617	235	
102	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	638	171	Ornius	(D Edbrookstain)	617	235	
102	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	638	174	Papadopoulos Utd	(A Papadopoulos)	614	240	
105	DJS 2	(D Santon)	637	174	Shot On Sight 2	(P Goldstraw)	613	240	
105	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	637	174	Robnabaz 2	(P Preston)	613	240	
107	Enid 2	(J Hagger)	636	174	Levey's Legems	(L Michaels)	613	240	
107	Angels Longhairs	(M Ward)	636	174	Valencia	(P Davidson)	612	240	
108	Shin's Dream	(C A Kibben)	636	180	Dutch Courage	(R van Rulerbeek)	612	240	
108	Sam Shanks	(S Shanker)	636	180	Fendon Union	(E Cowen)	611	245	
109	Raj Is Back To Kili 6	(R Goh)	635	180	Dave Boot	(D A Sutton)	611	245	

0891 866 968



## The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+39	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10203	J Laidie	Arsenal	0.75	0	+1	
10301	M Boenisch	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+24	
10401	T Flowers	Aston Villa	1.00	-1	+19	
10402	S Glavin	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-1	
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4	
10502	S Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+4	
10601	D Kharine	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	-27	
10603	F Grodas	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-6	-11	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-36	
10702	J Flett	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	-7	
10802	R Hout	Derby County	1.00	0	-7	
10803	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	0	-2	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	+10	
11001	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	+4	0	
11002	I Westwater	Dundee United	0.50	0	-55	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3	-28	
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1	
11201	G Rousseau	Everton	2.00	-2	-5	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-1	-24	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	+3	-6	
11501	M Beoney	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5	
11502	N Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11601	K Pooley	Leeds United	2.50	-4	+31	
11602	K Keller	Leeds United	1.00	-3	-19	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-6	+15	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	+6	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+2	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20	
11902	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-45	
11903	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-1	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	-1	-22	
12101	S Hisslop	Newcastle United	4.00	-2	-18	
12102	P Smeek	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
12201	M Croesley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-49	
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-1	-3	
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-11	-74	
12401	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0	+29	
12402	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0	+29	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1	+1	
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	
12603	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	-3	-2	
12701	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	+4	-1	
12801	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	0	-13	
12802	E Eardley	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-1	-19	
12901	L Mido	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	-19	
12902	E Eardley	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	-19	
13001	N Smith	Wimbledon	2.00	-3	-28	
13002	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-4	



Kitson, right, of West Ham United, has been a useful asset to many ITF selectors since his transfer to Upton Park

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+32	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	+3	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3	
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+6	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	+4	+33	
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	1.50	0	+37	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	+4	+23	
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0	+1	
30601	E Anon	Chelsea	3.00	0	+4	
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	-2	+29	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	-3	-6	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	+1	+1	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	-2	+13	
30701	L Walsh	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	+3	
30703	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1	
30704	A Eytchok	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1	
30705	I Stamat	Coventry City	2.50	0	+10	
30801	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
30802	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	-2	-4	
30803	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	-2	-8	
30804	M Carbone	Derby County	0.50	0	-5	
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	+1	+50	
31001	M Miller	Durham	0.75	-1	-18	
31002	I Den Bieman	Durham	0.75	-1	-18	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-4	-12	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-1	+14	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+6	
31201	D McPherson	Hibernian	1.00	-1	+30	
31202	P Ritchie	Hibernian	1.00	-1	+34	
31203	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	+7	
31301	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	-8	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.75	0	-8	
31303	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-19	
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+4	+11	
31402	R Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75	+3	+11	
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	-1	+34	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2	
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	-1	+22	
31504	P Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	-2	
31601	S Walsh	Leeds United	2.00	-1	+23	
31602	J Watts	Leeds United	1.00	0	+8	
31603	P Karmark	Leeds United	0.50	-1	+5	
31604	S Prior	Leeds United	1.00	-1	+1	
31605	M Elliott	Leeds United	1.50	-1	+6	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24	
31702	M Wright	Liverpool	1.50	-3	-8	
31703	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	+14	
31704	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0	+26	
31705	B T Kvarme	Liverpool	2.00	-2	+3	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	+5	+15	
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	+34	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	0	+21	
31804	N Pearson	Manchester United	1.50	0	-10	
31805	S Vickers	Manchester United	1.50	0	-10	
31806	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10	
31807	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4	
31808	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8	
31809	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	-4	
31810	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+18	
31901	P Albert	Newcastle United	1.00	0	-2	
31902	S Howes	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7	
31903	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+17	
31904	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+5	
31905	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+10	
31906	S Blatchford	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-5	
31907	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	-5	-12	
31908	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	3.50	0	+57	
32001	R Gough	Rangers	3.00	+4	+23	
32002	A McLaren	Rangers	3.50	+4	+23	
32003	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	+4	+23	
32004	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	+4	+18	
32005	J Newson	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+15	
32006	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	-3	
32007	B Linighan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	-3	
32008	K Monaghan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	-18	
32009	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0	+3	
32010	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	-2	
32011	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	-1	-1	
32012	U van Gobel	Southampton	1.50	-1	-16	
32013	A Melville	Sunderland	1.50	-1	-1	
32014	B Ball	Sunderland	1.00	+4	+14	
32015	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	+4	+14	
32016	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+20	
32017	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+9	
32018	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+14	
32019	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	-6	
32020	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-6	
32021	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+3	+2	
32022	S Bille	West Ham United	2.50	-2	-10	
32023	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	-1	+8	
32024	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	-1	-1	
32025	R Hall	West Ham United	0.50	-1	+3	
32026	R Ferdinand	Wimbledon	1.00	-2	-2	
32027	A Reeve	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
32028	P Pearce	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+16	
32029	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12	
32030	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+40	
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+24	
40103	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+8	
40104	I Khriakov	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+28	
40105	T Tzvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+25	
40201	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+3	+42	
40202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+55	
40203	R Parlor	Arsenal	2.00	0	+25	
40204	G Holder	Arsenal	1.50	0	0	
40205	I Selley	Arsenal	0.50	0	0	
40206	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	0	+40	
40207	R Garde	Arsenal	2.00	0	+7	
40208	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	+1	+15	
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+34	
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+49	
40303	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+40	
40304	C Ferrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+1	
40305	S Curcio	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+21	
40401	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+40	
40402	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+29	
40403	G Filicic	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+3	+27	
40404	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+20	
40405	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+43	
40406	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+7	
40407	G Dons	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+16	
40408	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5	
40409	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0	
40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0	+22	
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	+2	+30	

MIDFIELD PLAYERS					
Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk Ov
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1 +40	
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1 +24	
40103	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50	0 +8	
40104	I Khriakov	Aberdeen	2.50	0 +28	
40105	T Tzvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50	0 +25	
40201	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+3 +42	
40202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0 +55	
40203	R Parfleur	Arsenal	2.00	0 +25	
40204	G Holder	Arsenal	1.50	0 0	
40205	I Selley	Arsenal	0.50	0 0	
40206	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	0 +40	
40209	R Garde	Arsenal	2.00	0 +7	
40210	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	+1 +15	
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+1 +34	
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	+1 +49	
40303	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+1 +40	
40304	C Ferrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	0 +1	
40306	S Curcio	Aston Villa	3.50	0 +21	
40401	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0 +40	
40402	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0 +29	
40403	G Filicic	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+3 +27	
40404	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +20	
40405	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +43	
40406	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 +7	
40407	G Dons	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 +16	
40408	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 +5	
40409	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0 0	
40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0 +22	
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	+2 +30	



■ Chocolate-flavoured carrots have gone on sale as part of a drive to turn the vegetable-resistant children of today into the cancer-resistant adults of tomorrow. Backed by the Cancer Research Campaign, the carrots are the most bizarre of a range of four flavours aimed at the palates of children who shun vegetables and fail to absorb enough vitamin C..... Page 6



**■ HOMES**  
An old brickworks in the Fens is the site of one of Europe's biggest housing projects

**Times Two Crossword, page 56**

Changes to the chart: low E will deepen and remain slow-moving near the Briti

**Western Provident Association**  
<http://www.wpahealth.com>

Cairo	30	85	3	Lisbon	19	80	1
Cape Tn	15	59	1	Locarno	8	46	d
Ch church	10	50	X	Luxembg	7	45	1
Chicago	X			Luxor	38	97	s
Cologne	8	46	1	Madrid	X		

Rague	5	41	C	Vienna	3	37	C
Royce	3	37	A	Warsaw	5	41	C
Rhodes	19	66	S	Washington	16	61	S
Rio de J	34	83	I	Wellington	11	52	X
Riyadh	30	88	I	Zurich	5	41	I

**Full moon today**

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**Architects' monopoly; fishing quotas; Paul Sykes's reply on Eurosceptic MPs; the science of prayer; Camra on licensing laws; rationing water** **Page 23**

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TUESDAY APRIL 22 1997

# Co-op threatens Regan with SFO

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND JASON NISSE

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society raised the stakes in its fight to fend off a takeover bid by Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur, by threatening to call in the Serious Fraud Office if he fails to supply details of payments made to middlemen during an earlier deal.

A spokesman for Mr Regan, whose investment vehicle, Lanica Trust, is preparing a £1.5 billion bid for CWS, dismissed the threat and said

that there was no mystery about the payments.

In a letter to Mr Regan, Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, said that Allan Green and David Chambers, two directors suspended by the CWS last week, had told him that the deal in question had been done directly and without middlemen.

According to a spokesman for Galileo, the vehicle set up by Lanica to carry out the bid, payments of more than £1 million were made to a company named Trellis International in 1995 to pay Ronald

Zimet, a businessman, for his help in extending a crucial supply deal between the CWS and Hobson, a company headed by Mr Regan which bought the CWS food manufacturing business.

In the letter, Mr Melmoth writes: "If Messrs Green and Chambers had nothing to hide, why should they lie? If they are not lying then the 'Trellis role' was not disclosed to the CWS. If the 'Trellis role' was fully disclosed at the time, presumably you will have no difficulty in telling me what that role was, why you were

prepared to pay in excess of £2 million for it and who at the Co-op was told about it?"

He says that if answers are not received by close of business today "arrangements will be made to see representatives of the Serious Fraud Office".

The spokesman for Galileo said he understood that Mr Zimet had been present at meetings at the CWS. He said that the difference between the £2.85 million paid to the CWS to extend the deal and the £5 million noted by Hobson, and which included fees to advisers

including Mr Zimet, had been apparent since 1995. He also said that both SBC and KPMG, advisers to CWS, had known of the arrangement with Trellis.

Mr Zimet was yesterday understood to be in Jerusalem for Passover and unavailable for comment. His interests, apart from Trellis, which is registered in the British Virgin Islands, include an investment company in Geneva, a venture capital company in Israel and a company in Curacao. He is also chairman of Freepages, the Airtel-quoted provider of

interactive information services.

Meanwhile, Lennox Pyfe, chairman of the CWS board, revealed yesterday that a motion will be presented at the CWS annual meeting on May 17 designed to block any further predatory moves by Galileo. Some 300 corporate members and representatives will be asked to give their backing to the board's stance in resisting its overtures. A spokesman said Lanica would not be put off by the motion and would attempt to appeal directly to members through

the media and possibly through an advertising campaign.

Mr Regan and his associates were yesterday preparing affidavits to present to the High Court this afternoon. CWS last week obtained an injunction preventing Galileo from using any material obtained from Mr Green and Mr Chambers in any bid. A High Court hearing on Friday morning will decide whether the injunction remains in force.

Gamblers thrive, page 33

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	YTD	1997
FTSE 100	4229.7	(+18.2)
FTSE All share	2064.91	(+4.47)
Nikkei	18551.66	(+199.22)
New York		
Dow Jones	8709.57	(+8.02)
S&P Composite	765.66	(+0.32)

US RATE	YTD	1997
Federal Funds	5.25%	(5.25%)
Long Bond	6.87%	(6.87%)
Yield	7.07%	(7.07%)

COMMODITIES	YTD	1997
3-month Interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
Libor long	10.5%	(10.5%)

NEW YORK	YTD	1997
Dollar	1.6348*	(1.6330)
London		
Dollar	1.6348	(1.6313)
DM	2.7825	(2.7807)
FF	2.3680	(2.3659)
Sfr	2.3893	(2.3825)
Yen	205.21	(205.46)
S Index	98.5	(98.5)

LONDON	YTD	1997
DM	1.7035*	(1.7118)
FF	1.7025*	(1.7070)
Sfr	1.4475*	(1.4574)
Yen	125.67	(125.87)
S Index	105.4	(105.7)

TOKYO	YTD	1997
Yen	125.57	(125.57)

BREXIT 15-day (Jul)	YTD	1997
	\$18.45	(\$18.05)

LONDON	YTD	1997
	\$342.25	(\$342.45)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Praise for proposed Cordiant demerger

BY JASON NISSE

DAVID HERRO, the US investor whose actions brought about the departure of Lord Saatchi from Cordiant, yesterday praised the planned demerger of the business into the Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates networks as "an excellent deal for everyone".

Mr Herro and five other leading shareholders were canvassed about the deal last week, ahead of yesterday's announcement. "This is dismantling a holding company structure which was erroneously put together," he said.

In the £700 million demerger plan, Saatchi & Saatchi will be floated off in a separate company to be run by Bob Seelert, Cordiant's chief executive.

The remaining company will comprise the Bates network, which will include the Rowland public relations subsidiary, National Research Group in Los Angeles and HFCM, a communications consultancy. Zenith, the media buyer, will be independently managed but owned 50-50 by Bates and Saatchi. Mr Seelert said that new accounting practices had to be introduced to Zenith to show its true profitability, but an advertising expert said figures released yesterday indicated that Zenith made no money on £60 million of turnover.

Mr Seelert said the group had never planned to sell the Bates network. However, he said that what happens once it floats is another matter.

Temps, page 32

## MEPC £73m hit to cut 'swaps'

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MEPC has revealed that it will take a £73 million hit this year in an attempt to reduce high financing costs.

The property company said yesterday that it is cancelling some of its interest-rate swap agreements, cutting its overall effective interest charge by about 1.5 per cent. MEPC has been under pressure from major shareholders over its weak performance and static dividend. Last month the company broke off talks with Hammerson over a possible merger.

James Tuckey, chief executive, said the interest-rate deal would ensure cheaper and more flexible financing, as well as improving dividend cover from 1998. The dividend will stay at 20p this year.

But the City, which has been critical of the company's funding costs, was unimpressed by the deal. Analysts said they were surprised at the cost of cancelling the swaps and were concerned that the company's net asset value had fallen again because of the exceptional charge.

MEPC has launched a major rationalisation programme since the collapse of the Hammerson talks. The company announced last week that it would shed 70 staff by outsourcing the management of 340 properties. It also announced the purchase of three factory outlets for £80 million from C & J Clark, the shoe retailer.

MEPC said it did not expect to reap benefits from the interest-rate cancellation until 2010. It predicted savings would add £9 million in profits, excluding exceptional charges, this year, and rising to £19 million next year. But the exceptional charge will cause a net fall in earnings per share of 10.2p this year, while the net asset value will fall by £43 million.

The company said the interest-rate swaps had been made when interest rates were high and had resulted in funding costs at significantly higher levels than its competitors.

Pennington, page 31



End of the line: Jon Foulds, left, chairman of the Halifax, and Mike Blackburn, chief executive, at the building society's last annual meeting yesterday. Page 30

## A&L payouts top £1,400 as shares leap on flotation

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

SHARES in Alliance & Leicester, the former building society, soared to 564p on the first day of trading yesterday, nearly 9 per cent higher than the 520p predicted at the end of last week. The rise means that the value of the payout per qualifying society member is now more than £1,400.

Brokers claimed that the share price, which at one point reached 576p, was being driven up by bid speculation, with Abbey National, Halifax, Lloyds TSB and Australian Mutual Provident rumoured as possible buyers. More than 88 million shares changed hands, with retail stockbrokers reporting widespread buying by private investors.

The closing share price gives the newly fledged bank, whose chief executive is Peter White, a market capitalisation of nearly £3.3 billion, 20 per cent higher than the valuation given by the A&L's own advisers in the transfer document.

The market price is much higher than the price achieved in the first of three auctions to dispose of 157 million shares from the 600,000 A&L members who decided to sell straight away.

The 52 million shares sold in the first auction fetched an average price of 522p. The highest bidder paid 546p for 730,000 shares, while the lowest paid 517p. Cazenove said the prices paid in the second

auction were bound to be higher. Those selling shares through the auctions will get the average price from all auctions.

The Building Societies Association said customers could pay a heavy price for free shares. Adrian Coles, BSA director, said: "In the long term, customers will end up paying higher mortgage rates and receiving lower savings rates."

Shares in the Halifax, the next society to float, could also move to a big premium. It is expected to have a market value of more than £10 billion when it floats in June.

Pennington, page 31



Peter White saw the A&L's market price exceed £3 billion

## Star names in quest for ancient religious gems

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

A FLEDGLING diamond exploration company has set off in search of the gems from a 3,000-year-old religious artefact — and has become the unlikely darling of the Australian stock market, helped by a star-studded list of investors headed by the billionaire George Soros.

Even by the standards of the speculative Australian mining industry, Diamond Rose is a one-off. Set up by Phina Feldman, the sister of Joseph Gutnik, a well-known mining magnate, the company hopes to find the 12 gemstones of the breastplate worn by the High Priest in the Temple of Jerusalem 3,000 years ago. Known in the Bible as the Hoshen, the breastplate's 12 stones symbolize

the 12 tribes of Israel. Diamond Rose says that its tenements in Western Australia arguably hold five definite and possibly another two of the Hoshen gemstones.

The idea of finding the stones from the Hoshen came from the late Rabbi Schneerson of New York, who ten years ago told Mr Gutnik that he would find gold and the Hoshen diamonds in the outback of Western

Australia. Gutnik found the gold but has so far failed to find any of the diamonds.

Ms Feldman's belief that she will find the Hoshen diamonds is shared by James Packer, son of the media mogul, and Australian institutional investors GIO, Bankers Trust Australia and Permanent Trustees, all of whom are among the venture's 20 major shareholders.

The fact that Diamond Rose made its stock market debut on Rabbi Schneerson's birthday has only reaffirmed Ms Feldman's faith in her mission. She says: "I truly believe we are blessed... I'm convinced it's a sign from the heavens." Diamond Rose's shares jumped from 20 cents to \$1.29 on the first day of trading, giving Ms Feldman an instant paper fortune of \$490 million.

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Small print text at the bottom of the page, likely a disclaimer or terms and conditions for the mortgage advertisement.

## 'Budgie' flies into legal storm

By Fraser Nelson  
BUDGIE the Little Helicopter, the cartoon character invented by the Duchess of York, has dragged Sleepy Kids, its owners, into a \$22 million legal battle with its former marketing agents.

Launey, Hachmann and Harris (LHH), a New York company hired four years ago to help Budgie to break into the US, is claiming compensation of \$22 million in punitive damages. It claims it is entitled to the sum after marketing costs it estimates at \$2.3 million.

Robert Launey, president, says LHH received only about \$150,000 from Sleepy Kids, in spite of placing the series with Fox Children's Network and helping to launch the series on home video. The agency has since run into financial problems.

Sleepy Kids wrote down the intellectual property value of the cartoon from £2.4 million to £1.8 million last month on the grounds that its US performance was disappointing.

## Competition action by Ofwat expected soon

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BUXTED CHICKENS, part of the Hillsdown food group, will shortly become the first substantial company to switch its water supply from an existing monopoly to a competing company.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, is expected to allow Anglian Water to take over from Essex and Suffolk Water, part of the multinational Lyonnaise utility group. The decision may come before the election. The contract could start in the autumn.

Anglian will build a new pipeline from its existing territory to Buxted's plant in Flixton, Suffolk. It will supply water from its own resources. Buxted will go on Anglian's large-user tariff and is expected to save between 20 and 25 per cent of its supply bill.

The two water companies' licences would be amended to allow Anglian's to take in Buxted's plant at Flixton. That might allow Anglian to compete for other business near by. Anglian says that, if it is successful, it will look for more "inset appointments" elsewhere. Competition is strong-

ly encouraged in theory. In practice, it has hitherto been confined to bidding for contracts at new industrial sites, such as the Toyota car plant in Derbyshire.

The Buxted application is one of 18 being considered by Ofwat under the Competition in Services (Utilities) Act. None has yet been approved. The second may also be for Anglian, which wants to take over sewage treatment for RAF Finningley in Lincolnshire. The airbase has its own sewage system, but takes water from Severn Trent.

All the other proposals are from Envirologic, a consultancy company. Many of these applications require water from existing suppliers and the use of their pipes.

These involve complex issues, such as the pricing of water and common carriage rates, which would be decided by Ofwat. Mr Byatt fears that special cost-based deals brokered for large users could shift charges for investment on to household customers.



Peenington, page 31 Ian Byatt, of Ofwat, may make decision before the election

## Rebels fail in Halifax board bid

TWO dissidents failed to gain places on the board of the Halifax, which yesterday held its last annual meeting as a mutual organisation.

Serge Lourie, an accountant who sits on the board of several pension funds, and Peter Judge, a Labour councillor in Calderdale, stood in opposition to three retiring board members, including Mike Blackburn, Halifax's chief executive, who had put themselves up for re-election.

However, Mr Lourie and Mr Judge, the founders of the Halifax Action Group which led the campaign of opposition to the planned £10 billion conversion and stock market flotation, gained just 290,000 votes between them. Last year they jointly notched up 385,000 votes in a similar bid.

An attempt by Mr Lourie and Mr Judge to put a cap on executive pay also failed.

The Halifax will today start to inform its members how many shares they can expect to receive when the society makes its stock market debut in June. The strong performance of Alliance & Leicester yesterday suggests that the average Halifax windfall, formerly valued at £1,200, could now be worth closer to £1,400.

## Lloyd's auction deals under investigation

By ADAM JONES

LLOYD'S OF LONDON is investigating several cases of suspected insider dealing in auctions of syndicate space last year.

The 1996 auctions allocated £1.4 billion of underwriting capacity. Much of this resulted from individual names leaving the market and selling their right to invest in certain syndicates, often to the new corporate vehicles.

Announcing a tighter regulatory structure for 1997, Lloyd's said yesterday that "a handful" of deals are being investigated. Richard Murphy, manager of its monitoring arm, said: "If any disciplinary action is taken, it will be published."

The auctions, a way of realising the market value of involvement in desirable syndicates, raised £35 million in 1996.

Auctions this year will offer a fairer chance to all buyers, said Lloyd's. Bidders in 1996 were able to offer unrealistically high amounts to put themselves at the front of the

queue, forcing out smaller investors. But they knew they would never pay the inflated sum since the eventual price was an average from all the sales for a syndicate. Bidders will now have to pay what they offer.

There will be eight auctions this year, held between July 8 and September 23, plus a special auction on December 16 for capacity released by members who die late in the year. The total expected to be allocated is conservatively estimated at £600 million to £700 million, but names will still not be able to buy in one auction and sell the same capacity in another.

The auctions will now solely use computers and faxes, as opposed to the traditional face-to-face system used by auction houses. This will provide fuller records to aid investigation of any insider deals, said Lloyd's.

Each seller will also be checked in advance to ensure that they have the capacity they are selling.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## RICS sees 5% rise in some house prices

HOUSE prices in some parts of England have shot up more than 5 per cent during the past three months alone, according to a report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) published today. More than a tenth of the 259 chartered surveyors taking part in the survey believe prices have risen more than 5 per cent in the past quarter — the first such response since the boom days of 1988. But the RICS was quick to deny suggestions that the country was in the grip of a new housing boom. Demand is not as great as it was in the late Eighties and sales are lower, it says in its latest England and Wales survey covering the first three months of this year.

A spokesman for the RICS said that the latest finding was "largely due to the buoyancy of the market in London, the South East and the West Midlands". The RICS acknowledged that those areas were suffering the most severe property shortages and, as a result, prices were rising rapidly. It said that there were wide regional variations in the recovery, echoing the findings of research by the Halifax Building Society earlier this month. London still leads the way, with a net balance — the difference between the percentage of people reporting an increase and those reporting a decrease — of 90 per cent of chartered surveyors seeing an increase in prices.

## Compel computer deal

SHARES of Compel jumped to a new high yesterday as the desktop computer services group sealed an agreement to join Globalserve, a worldwide alliance of computer suppliers. Under the agreement, Compel will be able to pitch its services to UK-based multinational companies drawing on support from Globalserve's other members. Globalserve is one of three such worldwide alliances, and has 30 members with annual turnover of \$5 billion. Compel's shares closed 14½p firmer at 268½p.

## Securicor US offering

SECURICOR TELESERVICES, the Securicor subsidiary in America that supplies billing management systems to the telecommunications industry, is to raise about \$30 million by selling 2.6 million common shares in an initial public offering. Securicor will own 57 per cent of the subsidiary after the sale is completed. Securicor Teleservices reported profits of \$3.6 million on turnover of \$34 million in its last financial year. Its shares are to be traded on America's Nasdaq market.

## Sims agrees to MBO

TWO directors of Sims Food, the meat processor and supplier, have been given the go-ahead by the company to put together a management buyout of the retail division. One of the directors, Richard Carvin, joint managing director of the retail division, resigned yesterday in order to prepare the buyout. The other joint managing director, David Gunner, assumes full responsibility for the division and will be part of the buyout team. Any outside offers for the business will also be considered by the company.

## JBA races ahead

JBA HOLDINGS, the software company that hopes to make a fortune by helping to solve the millennium computer bug, increased pre-tax profits last year by 57 per cent, from £7.2 million to £11.3 million. The company saw turnover increase by 31 per cent, from £123.2 million to £161.8 million. Earnings per share were up by 39 per cent, from 13.14p to 18.26p. JBA will pay a final dividend of 4p (3p) on July 1, bringing the total to 5.1p (4p). JBA also expects to buy Presys Holdings, a French software company.

## Dealer fined £250,000

A PENNY SHARE dealer has been fined a record £250,000 with £30,956 costs by Fimbra, the former watchdog for independent financial advisers, for six serious rule breaches. City Equities had failed to warn clients about the risks involved and failed to obtain the necessary information about certain of its clients. It also failed to have "good grounds for believing that its recommendations were suitable for or of benefit to certain clients". Further, Fimbra said that the firm had made unsolicited calls to potential investors.

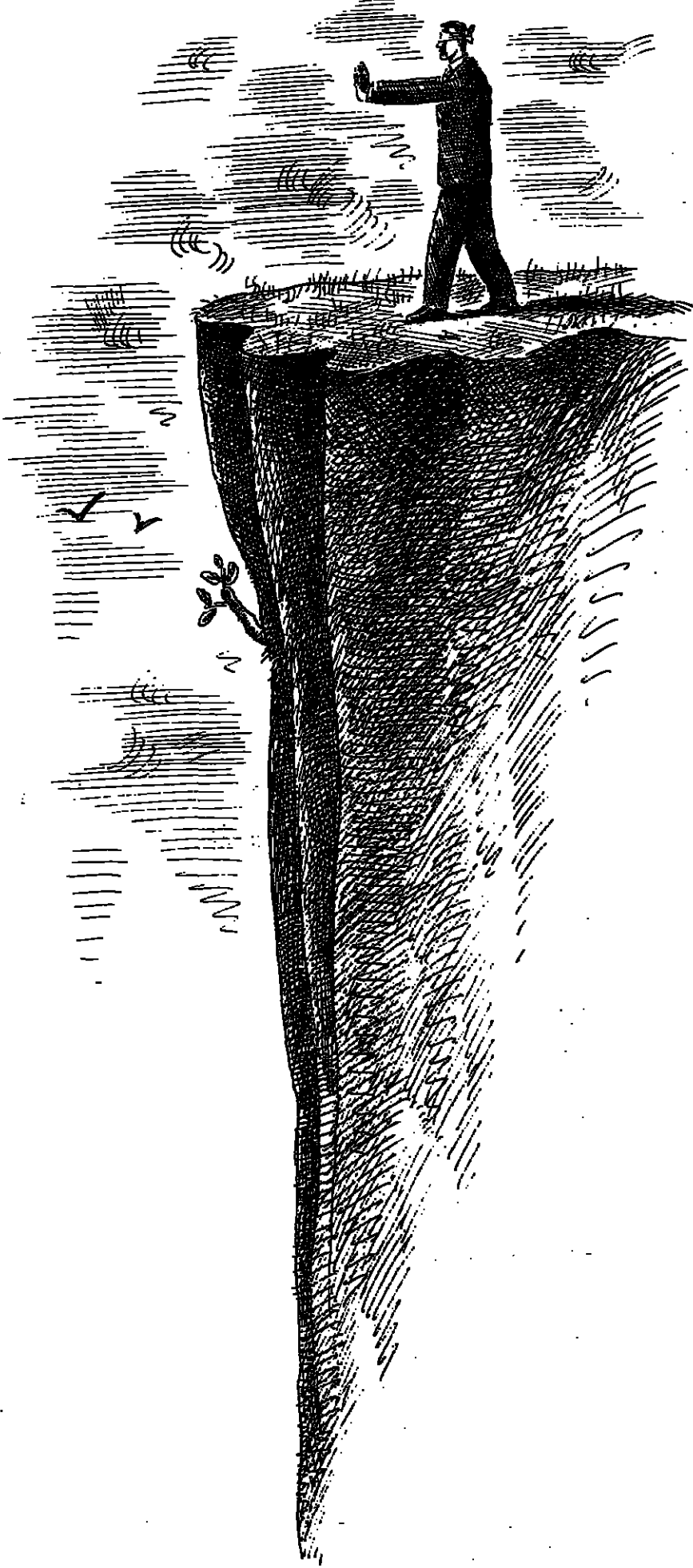
### TOURIST RATES

Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.29	Malta	0.857
Austria Sch	20.25	Netherlands Gld	2.812
Belgium Fr	60.45	New Zealand \$	2.51
Canada \$	2.402	Norway Kr	12.01
Cyprus Cyp£	0.870	Portugal Esc	208.00
Denmark Kr	11.16	S Africa Rd	7.36
Finland Mk	8.92	Spain Pta	246.50
France Fr	9.82	Sweden Kr	13.23
Germany Dm	2.34	Switzerland Fr	2.81
Greece Dr	4.59	Turkey Lira	224.130
Hong Kong \$	13.40	USA \$	1.734
Iceland P	127		
Ireland P	1.10		
Israel Shk	5.83		
Italy Lira	2.008		
Japan Yen	215.00		

Prices for initial denomination bank notes.  
Prices for bank notes issued in London.  
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Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

## RJB hurt by PowerGen supply contract blow

RJB MINING, Britain's biggest remaining coal miner, fell 20½p to 412p after it was learnt that its coal supplies more cheaply from other sources, such as Mining Scotland, the consortium, and from overseas. Last year PowerGen accounted for 13 million tonnes of RJB production out of a total of 35 million tonnes.

At one stage, the RJB price hit 400p, but closed off the bottom as some traders took comfort from the view that an incoming Labour government might force PowerGen to buy supplies domestically.

In December BZW downgraded its profit forecast for RJB and told the market that it faced a tough couple of years as it struggled to secure fresh supply contracts with the big electricity generators as the old contracts imposed by the Government run out.

A spokesman for RJB said: "We don't see that this alters the situation with PowerGen. It is a large customer, not the largest, and remains a good customer. It still needs to buy more supplies. We are hoping to continue supplying it."

RJB operates the coalfields formerly belonging to the National Coal Board for which it paid £85 million. After hitting a high of 460p after its flotation, RJB's share price has fallen sharply.

The rest of the equity market reversed an initial 11-point fall to close at its best of the day in thin trading. The FT-SE 100 index finished 18.2 up at 4,328.7 on turnover of less than 700 million shares. Much of the demand focused on the banking sector after the Alliance & Leicester made its public debut. The broader based FT-Mid 250 was up just 0.5 at 4,518.2.

Cordiant, the advertising agency, rose 5½p to 135½p after it announced plans to demerge the business into three separate companies.

Unilever advanced 15½p to £15.94 on speculation that ICI is ready to pay nearly £4 billion for its specialty chemicals business. ICI was unmoved at 697½p. Shares of Mackie International were suspended at 113½p pending clarification of preliminary results for the year to December 31, published last month. The engineering contractor said

billion A&L is the 60th biggest quoted company in Britain and set to take its place as a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index on June 23.

Paul Kavanagh, at Killik & Co, the private client broker, says members should hold on to their shares. "The dividend yield is high on 5 per cent for those allocated them and should continue to grow. Its a good one to hold in the current climate of low interest rates and low inflation," he says.

The A&L is the first of four building societies to seek banking status and a stock market listing. Trading starts in the Halifax in June, followed by the Woolwich in July and Northern Rock in October.

Their emergence has refocused attention on the banking sector, which has outperformed the rest of the market since July of last year. Abbey National was a case in point, adding 14p at 812½p. Johnny de la Hay, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, says there is still scope for the banks to outperform in both terms of share price and dividend growth.

The big banks have consolidated their position in the market place and, according to Laing, are capable of dividend growth of 12 per cent per annum until 1999. Top of its shopping list are Barclays, up 18½p at £10.28½. Next, HSBC higher at 69p. Bank of Scotland, 14p dearer at 339½p, ahead of results tomorrow, and Royal Bank of Scotland, 14½p better at 54p.

On GILT-edged: Weaker European bond markets combined with growing political uncertainty left prices lower on the day. Speculation that President Chirac is about to call a general election in France and growing fears a hung parliament in Britain after May 1, unsettled investors. They proved reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of tomorrow's £2 billion auction.

In the futures pit, the £3 series of the long gilt was 1½p lower at £109½ in thin trading that saw just 22,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 closed ½p down at £102½½, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was off ¼p at £102½.

NEW YORK: US blue-chip shares held small gains in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.02 points to 6,709.57.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones ..... 6709.57 (+6.02)  
S&P Composite ..... 766.26 (+0.32)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average ..... 18551.06 (+109.52)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng ..... 12626.04 (+84.86)

Amsterdam:  
EEX All-share ..... 744.92 (+3.13)

Sydney:  
All Ordinaries ..... 2445.58 (+3.41)

Frankfurt:  
DAX ..... 3347.58 (+13.19)

Singapore:  
Straits ..... 2037.89 (+5.31)

Brussels:  
General ..... 12171.10 (+54.86)

Paris:  
CAC-40 ..... 5222.67 (+34.86)

Zurich:  
SIX ..... 2624.14 (+14.99)

London:  
FTSE 100 ..... 4328.7 (+18.2)  
FTSE 250 ..... 4518.2 (+0.5)  
FTSE 350 ..... 2128.7 (+7.2)

FTSE Europe 100 ..... 2158.7 (+2.39)  
FTSE All-share ..... 2058.1 (+6.47)  
FTSE Non Financials ..... 2156.1 (+5.73)  
FTSE Fixed Interest ..... 117.02 (+0.09)  
FTSE Govt Securities ..... 94.12 (+0.02)

SEAG Value ..... 657.7  
US\$ ..... 1.6348 (+0.0038)  
German Mark ..... 2.7824 (+0.0018)  
Exchange Index ..... 99.5 (+1.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm):  
EBCU ..... 1.4221  
EBCD ..... 1.4221  
RPI ..... 155.4 Mar 12 (24) Jan 1997=100  
RPIX ..... 154.9 Mar 12 (24) Jan 1997=100

## RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester 56p  
Aurora Inv Trust 100  
Avalon Oil 80  
Avis Europe 132  
BICSA 38  
Charlton Athletic 50  
Close Bros Proct 95  
Donatantonio 74  
Harvey Nash 200  
Heal's 212  
Methven's 48  
NAT (80) 52  
Newcastle Ltd 117  
Northstar Secs 28  
Oxford Tech Venture 95  
Siber Energy 15  
Torch Hldgs 107  
United Overseas Grp 61  
Worldwide 177

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Edge Props n/p (135) 18  
Lumina n/p (320) 52  
Pemberton n/p (18) 3

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISKS:  
Johnson Fry ..... 141p (+10p)  
JBA Hldgs ..... 720p (+45p)  
Cardiff Prop ..... 221p (+10p)  
Bank Scotland ..... 339p (+14p)  
Innovative Tech ..... 331p (+12p)  
Leopold J ..... 85p (+15p)  
Ry Bk Scot ..... 544p (+14½p)  
Nat West ..... 697p (+18½p)  
DFS Furniture ..... 532p (+12p)  
Abbey Nat ..... 812p (+14p)  
Tibury Douglas ..... 655p (+10p)

FALLS:  
Shield Diag ..... 497p (-65p)  
Aesco: Br Ports ..... 260p (-12p)  
Cohen (A) ..... 375p (-10p)  
Photobank ..... 535p (-10p)  
Cochran ..... 525p (-10p)  
Vanguard ..... 172p (-10p)  
Vanguard ..... 607p (-10p)  
Stand Chart ..... 873p (-18½p)  
De La Rue ..... 536p (-9p)  
Black & Bros ..... 478p (-5p)  
Close Bros ..... 464p (-7½p)

Closing Prices Page 34

## TEMPUS

## The selling of Bates

UNRAVELLING the mistakes of the 1980s is how Bob Seelert describes his demerger of the Cordiant Group. Months of agonising has come up with the solution everyone else thought of years ago — put Saatchi & Saatchi in a different company from Bates. This gets rid of the problem afflicting Bates, since Saatchi bought it in 1980, that it could not take on as clients anyone who conflicted with Procter & Gamble because that was a Saatchi client. Suddenly the world gets larger for Bates without getting smaller for Saatchi.

However the structure Cordiant and its advisers has come up with is not ideal. The Bates and Saatchi operations will have separate listings, at no extra cost, which implies the central overhead of Cordiant is still too high. But the Zenith media buying agency is left straddling the two new

businesses uncomfortably. And given that Bates recently took the Wendy's hamburger chain media buying away from Zenith, one wonders how committed it is to a business in which it will have 50 per cent. One suspects Zenith is making too little money to be allowed out on its own at the moment.

And then why does the Bates side get all the minor gems, such as National Research Group and HPICM? This is likely to make a much more profitable company in the medium term than Saatchi and make it look a sensible move to turn down the bid approaches from True North in favour of a float. However the shunning of True North may only be temporary. Mr Seelert admits that anyone would be free to buy Bates once it is floated. Do they have to wait that long? Make no mistake, the "for sale" sign was put on Bates yesterday.

## Premier Farnell

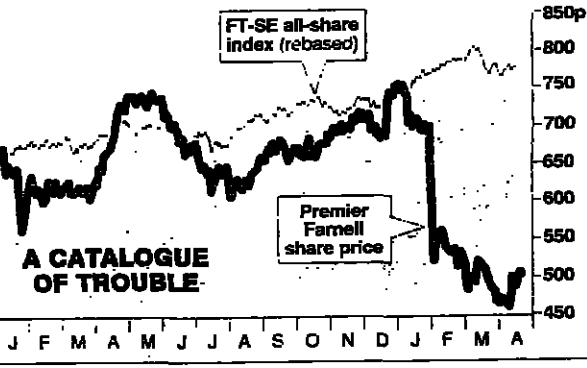
THE excuses were all lined up yesterday when Howard Poulson started the process of saving his job as chief executive of Premier Farnell. Exchange rates had cost about £6 million. The volume business sold at Christmas made £10 million less than it should have. This meant the real profits were only about 6 per cent below what Farnell had expected when it spent £1.35 billion on Premier, the giant US components distributor.

What is more, the reason this was not all that good was that the world semiconductor shortage has turned into a glut. So the premium prices Premier's Newark catalogue business was getting have dried up. But there are lots of initiatives — like putting pictures and a full price range in the

## Newark catalogue

and launching Farnell in the States — which will help. But it is not really good enough. Mr Poulson gave the City a story of jam tomorrow from Premier. What he either did not know, or did not tell, was that the business was enjoying exceptional profits at the time of the purchase. So the new

vision was being built on shifting foundations. An investor presentation on Thursday may add confidence, but there is no sign of this jam. Given the market only put the shares up 1p to 499p, leaving them nearly 200p under the price before February's profits warning, the City clearly wonders if it will ever appear.



## Sainsbury

GAINING planning permission to build large stores has become very difficult, to the frustration of all the supermarket groups. This means that J Sainsbury, which wants to rebuild its market share, could be tempted to start bidding for some stores from the CWS retail business — if they eventually come up for sale.

The CWS retailing side includes 537 food stores and 32 non-food stores. The most attractive ones are the 60 supermarkets and 180 superstores. The rest are, for the main part, corner shops.

The particular appeal for J Sainsbury would be the 44 supermarkets and seven superstores in Scotland, where it is under-represented after losing the battle with Tesco to take over William Low. Moreover, the CWS food operating margins, excluding the milk business, are only 3.3 per cent and could easily be improved by

## becoming part of a big supermarket family.

So the temptation to get involved is there, but it would be a foolhardy move. There will be no more than a handful of stores that really suit Sainsbury's purpose and it is highly unlikely that Laticia — the would-be buyer of CWS, which apparently wants to carry on running the retail side — would sell only its best stores to a rival. Sainsbury certainly needs to look for opportunities to steal a march on Tesco: this is not likely to be one.

## RJB

## BEASTLY power generators.

For years, they stood shoulder to shoulder supporting the national coal industry, buying good British coal providing good British living rooms.

Now, they look like casting aside their co-operative past and banking off with ten million tonnes of foreign coal at keen prices, brought courtesy

of the soaring power. RJB is bracing itself to sell 33 million tonnes of coal this year, at a cost of some 123p per gigajoule. Now that PowerGen has ordered 4.5 million tonnes elsewhere, RJB could face a pile-up of unwanted coal, and price pressure that rises with the pound.

With the last government brokered contract expiring next year, RJB is so far failing to impress its transition from state lapdog to market animal. But it can still rely on one loyal friend: the incapacity of ports. Imported coal is unlikely to exceed ten million tonnes in 1998, against the industry need for 40 million. If 4.5 million has already been signed up to PowerGen, this leaves at least 25.5 million tonnes available for RJB.

Having spent so much cleaning up its potential mines, RJB's debt leaves it a finely balanced act with little room for error. But as long as exports stay down, there is time to learn.

## Shares of RJB Mining ended down 20½p at 412p

matters had come to light that might lead to a restatement. The announcement of a bid approach lifted Raine 2p to 19½p. The construction company said it was in talks that might lead to an all-share offer being made at a small premium to the ruling market price. At these levels the group carries a price tag of £213 million. Symonds has followed

Newcomer Newcastle United fell 5½p to 117½p after Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, warned clients the shares are looking expensive. Tilney says that because of restraints on ground capacity, there were few chances to increase medium-term revenues. Moving to a new ground could prove expensive.

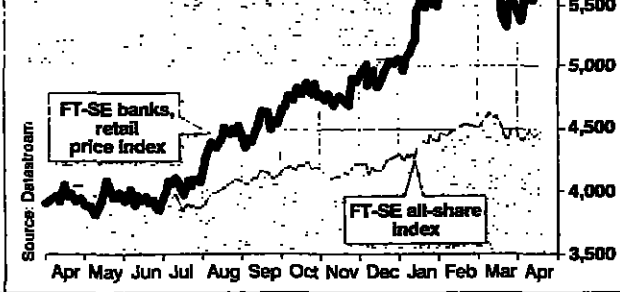
Shield Diagnostics ended 65p down at 497½p as several directors exercised options and sold stock. Gordon Hall has exercised 70,000 shares at 35p and sold them on at 530p. George Zajick has also exercised options on 40,000 shares at 35p and sold them on at 530p.

First-time dealings in Alliance & Leicester got off to a

lowed up last month's profits warning with the appointment of Arthur Andersen, the auditor, to investigate "significant breaches" of internal controls at its precision engineering division. The business managing director has been sacked and the group now expects profits to be even lower than indicated at the time of the last trading update. The shares fell 9p at 38p.

better start than even the most optimistic stock market bull could have forecast. The minimum bid in Friday's auction was reckoned to be 217p, way above the 48p to 510p predicted by some City pundits.

Opening at 522p, the price touched a peak of 576p, before ending the day at 566½p, a rise of 42p, and worth £1.486 to members offered 250 free shares each. Capitalised at £3



## COMMODITIES

LIFTS			
May	104-104	Jul	104-104
Jun	102-102	Aug	104-104
Jul	102-102	Sep	104-104
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Dec	102-102	Feb	104-104



By this time next week the London Stock Exchange should know whether the latest attempt to bury its troubled techno past has been successful or whether it has found yet another banana skin.

More than a decade after the Big Bang revolution ended face-to-face dealing on the Exchange floor, and after spending more than £130 million finding the right computer system, the Crest project will finally face its test of mass dealing by an army of private investors.

The 30 million-plus Alliance & Leicester shares traded yesterday will be due for "settlement" next Monday. The Crest, paperless share-trading project, which cost £20 million to build and costs £25 million a year to run, should cope with few problems. The fact is that the A&L share deals will be paralled into 30 or 40 lots so there should be little increase in daily Crest settlements, which are running at around 145,000 transactions.

CrestCo, the operating company for the new system, may be separate from the Stock Exchange, but the

## Wave of flotations promises critical test of Crest project

success or failure of the computer network inextricably links the fate of the two concerns. Whichever way you look at it computers and the Stock Exchange have spelt trouble and expense since Big Bang on October 27, 1986.

Between 1985 and 1993, when the ill-fated Taurus electronic settlement of shares and registrations project was abandoned, the Exchange spent well over £100 million on technology to little effect. Worse still was the rapid turnover of chief executives at the Stock Exchange, culminating in the very public sacking of Michael Lawrence in January 1996.

At that point — and certainly until last summer — it was open talk in the City that the Stock Exchange was an anachronism, with the markets dominated by the most powerful players.

The big houses wanted everything their own way and were prepared to fight for their interests. Not only had the Exchange frittered tens of millions of pounds on useless technology but it rarely managed to pursue insider dealers and general market abusers with any authority.

The Exchange has also been criticised for its attitude to small investors. The shift to paperless share trading under Crest has meant a move away from owning shares under individual names to the use of nominee accounts. There is nothing arcane in nominee accounts. They do mean, however, that many individual shareholders behind these accounts do not receive annual reports and accounts and do not have the automatic right to attend annual meetings unless they are prepared to

pay an additional fee. The Stock Exchange also faces competition from TradePoint, which received the go-ahead from City watchdogs last September to start business as a recognised investment exchange. Realistically though TradePoint is still in its infancy.

The real test for Crest, and the trading volumes it can handle, will come later in the summer when the Halifax, Woolwich and Norwich Union all shed their mutual status.

In the meantime, Gavin Casey, who took over as Exchange chief executive last August, can look back with some satisfaction. A new order-driven share-trading network for City professionals is moving forward and the insider dealing unit has a new artificial intelligence monitoring system.

Many observers believe that there is a conflict of interest between the Stock Exchange's role as a regulator on the one hand and a commercial entity on the other. This could be resolved if Labour forms the next government and the promised reform of the financial services industry and the role of City watchdogs proceeds as planned.

Even so, the Stock Exchange has read the tea leaves on its commercial future and acted promptly. In London recently a delegation from China visited the first listing on the UK exchange of a Chinese company and more will follow. The listing was the result of two years hard graft by the Treasury, the Stock Exchange and the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog. That same team is looking to attract other overseas business to London.

The Stock Exchange has started its fightback and it would be rash to write off its chances of survival just yet, but Crest is a vital ingredient in that success formula.

ROBERT MILLER

## Convergence of parties hits hopes for full employment

John Grieve Smith jogs our memories over election campaign's forgotten issue

One striking casualty of the convergence of Labour and Conservative policies has been any discussion of full employment, the abandonment of which was an integral part of the Thatcher revolution. The election debate on unemployment has been limited to palliative measures to help particular groups of the unemployed. However, unemployment, despite its recent fall, remains more than three times higher than the average level in the first 30 years after the Second World War. Monetary and budgetary policy is now based on maintaining a minimum level of 1.5 million to 2 million unemployed as an essential means of regulating inflation.

Full employment is not simply a matter of fewer people suffering the frustration and hardship of being unemployed. Its abandonment, along with the accompanying measures to make the labour market more "flexible", has led to a serious growth in inequality and insecurity. Apart from those registered as unemployed, many more are effectively denied a chance to work. Flexibility has become a euphemism for the casualisation of employment rather than an attempt to balance the varying needs of employers to those of their employees.

Until recently the Labour Party remained pledged to restore full employment, a goal explicitly reaffirmed by Tony Blair at the 1994 Labour Party Conference. Since then, however, new Labour has limited its proposed attack on unemployment to helping the young and long-term unemployed and promised to follow similar (if not stricter) financial policies to the Tories. But without a stronger demand for labour, such measures will have little, if any, effect on the total number of jobs.

All the main parties now subscribe to the New Orthodoxy, with the following three main tenets:

□ Inflation should be controlled by interest rates, preferably by an independent central bank.  
□ Budgets should not be used for demand management (or at least not to stimulate demand; if they reduce it, that is a bonus), and budget deficits should be kept to a minimum at all times.  
□ Unemployment is purely a problem of the labour market to be solved by deregulation and increased flexibility, i.e. reducing the cost of labour. This is the doctrine on which the Treaty of Maastricht was so disastrously based. It ignores the fact that higher interest rates only curb inflation by making trade more difficult, and create unemployment in order to ease the pressure of wage demands. Measures to reduce budget deficits (which are themselves a consequence of high unemployment) are aggravating

an already serious unemployment problem in many EU countries, with potentially explosive political consequences.

The reduction of unemployment does not depend on making labour cheaper, as the various labour market "solutions" suggest. If the demand were there, most firms could increase their sales and output profitably at existing price and wage levels. The key problem is how to run the economy at a higher level of demand and lower unemployment without increasing inflationary pressures.

As things are, the new Government will come under immediate pressure to raise interest rates or taxes to avoid any further increase in demand for fear of inflation. If unemployment is to be reduced further, the two essentials are to take steps to avoid the stronger bargaining power of labour leading to excessive wage increases, and to expand industrial capacity so that stronger demand does not drive up prices or costs in imports.

The two go together because the confidence in continued expansion, which firms need to invest in additional capacity, depends on a convincing solution to the pay problem.

This can only come from agreement between the Government, unions and employers to keep wage increases to a moderate level in both the private and public sectors.

Unless this nettle is grasped, there can be little hope of any substantial reduction in unemployment. To try to enforce a strict pay policy in the public sector alone will only accentuate the threat of politically damaging disputes in key public services.

The new Government after the election should make a fresh start by setting up an Economic Policy Council with representatives of unions and employers to formulate a medium-term strategy encompassing both the demand and supply side policies needed to achieve full employment.

The alternative to continued use of mass unemployment to regulate inflation is to move forward to an era of formulating economic policy by co-operation and agreement — in fashionable terms, a "stakeholding" approach.

It is strange that new Labour is so afraid to offer us this choice: this must be the first time a British political party has gone into an election with a platform designed to appeal more to its opponents than its supporters!

John Grieve Smith is author of *Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed* (published last month by Macmillan at £15.99) and co-editor with Jonathan Michie of *Employment and Economic Performance* (published this week by OUP at £15.99).

## Grubby world of the gumshoe thrives in a complex market

Eric Reguly says watching the detectives demonstrates modern needs

The boys from Kroll Associates, the world's largest corporate sleuthing firm, could not believe their luck. They had been rummaging through the dustbins of the Dorset home of Roy Tazzyman, former chief executive of Davy International, and found some curious refuse: faxed letters to senior executives at VAI of Austria, one of Davy's main competitors.

Gumshoes were not supposed to have it this easy. Kroll delivered the papers to Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering group that inherited Davy when it bought Trafalgar House for about £900 million last year. Kvaerner was delighted. Here, at last, was evidence that supported its belief that Davy was leaking confidential information to VAI.

Kvaerner used the dustbin booty to persuade a High Court judge to allow it to raid the UK offices of VAI. Mr Tazzyman's new employer, where it claimed to have found thousands of Davy documents, including computer disks and technical material. Kvaerner accused VAI of industrial espionage and dirty tricks on a grand scale, triggering a legal row that has yet to conclude.

Industrial espionage, or corporate intelligence, as its practitioners prefer to call it, is nothing new. It has been a part of life since the dawn of commerce for the simple reason that it can provide crucial strategic advantages in a hurry. Stealing a dazzling new technology is cheaper than developing it yourself. Confidential information about a product launch, marketing campaign, acquisition strategy or the boss's mistress can alter the competitive landscape overnight. Kroll's revelation that the late Lord Whites' beloved racehorses were bought for him by Hanson helped to discredit Hanson's bid for ICI.

Andrew Regan, the young acquirer with his sights set on the Co-operative Wholesale Society, believes he is the latest victim of corporate spying. He has accused his opponents of using video cameras to keep tabs on him and his family. The Co-op, of course, might argue that it is just trying to level the playing field. It wants to know if Regan received any confidential information from the two Co-op executives who were suspended last week.

Corporate sleuthing is one of



Andrew Regan scored a public relations victory of sorts when the Co-op admitted that it had used private detectives

the world's fastest growing industries. Almost every large company either has investigators on staff or employs them in special circumstances. Defence contractors like Racal would not be in business unless it kept its security experts hopping to meet the Government's "List X" requirements. The backgrounds of employees in sensitive project areas are thoroughly screened. Offices and board rooms are routinely swept for electronic bugging devices.

Traditionally, the mergers and acquisitions business has made thorough use of corporate investigators. Kroll, the industry leader, and its rivals were behind the scenes players in almost every large takeover of the 1980s and 1990s. In Britain, Kroll was secretly hired in 1995 by Rhône-Poulenc Rorer to

examine when Fisons, the British drugs company it eventually won in a £1.7 billion hostile takeover, might receive US approval for the long-delayed sale of a US subsidiary.

It is surprising that Variety of the US hired private investigators last year to determine whether any company had plans to challenge its proposed merger with Lucas Industries. The investigators — their names have not been revealed — learnt that BBA, the former British Belt and Asbestos company, was eager to spoil the party. Surprisingly, private gumshoes played no role in last year's attack by Granada on the Forte hotels and catering group. But Forte turned down the opportunity to employ investigators partly because it feared their presence would

come to light and trigger a public relations nightmare. Since mergers and acquisitions are cyclical, corporate sleuths have had to develop other sources of income. According to Jeff Katz, the managing director of Kroll's UK office, the bulk of any large investigations firm divides into two areas: corporate intelligence and "problem solving". The former is designed to avoid a potential disaster; the latter to fix existing ones.

For the most part, corporate intelligence is a sophisticated form of due diligence. The sector is growing because corporations are increasingly dealing in international markets and often lack enough information about foreign partners to trust them. Before putting down £100 million to build a car com-

ponents factory, say, in Eastern Europe, they want some assurance that their local partners will not vanish with the loot. Katz said: "Some countries in Eastern Europe are like the Wild West. How do you know that the people you're getting involved with are legit?"

To check them out, investigators use a combination of public records and interviews, most of them done covertly, with anyone who may have knowledge of the partners in question. In these cases, investigators rely heavily on a network of local contacts that may have taken years, even decades, to nurture. The most successful sleuthing firms "buy in" their networks by hiring professionals, such as former police officers, FBI and CIA agents, prosecutors and jour-

nalists, whose livelihoods depended on the reliability of their informants and contacts. An ineffective contacts network can make life miserable for sleuths. In 1992, the Russian Government hired Kroll to track down the billions of dollars thought to have been spirited out of the country by corrupt Communist Party officials. Kroll had experience in asset tracking. It had some success in recovering the hidden assets of Ferdinand Marcos, the former president of the Philippines, and Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti. But Kroll's Russian effort proved fruitless. It had enormous trouble penetrating Russia's secretive and inefficient bureaucracy and suspected that the Russian Government, in the end, lacked the political will to get the job done.

Katz said the "problem solving" side is experiencing explosive growth. Luxury goods companies have hired sleuths to find the source of counterfeit products. Investment firms have hired them to check out rumours that a valuable group of staff, such as analysts or bankers, may be preparing to defect to a rival firm. Insurers use them to examine whether a claim is honest. Although business is booming, private investigators are having trouble shaking their "dirty raincoat" image. While Kroll's examination of Roy Tazzyman's dustbins presented no legal problems, it reinforced a shabby image.

Kroll, for its part, has been accused of misrepresentation. In 1992, for example, it was hired by Austria's billionaire Swarovski family to shed some light on the failure of Zale, the big Texas jewellery chain in which it had a half interest. But the family did not want Zale's management to know Kroll was on the case. The three-man Kroll team got around the hurdle by infiltrating Zale through a small investment banking firm. But the Kroll people were exposed. Luckily for Kroll, the matter blew over; the worst outcome could have meant the loss of its investigator's licence in Texas.

A fine line divides legitimate market research and theft of proprietary information. Privacy and ownership rules differ in each country. The trick for private investigators is to use the most effective intelligence-gathering methods without straying too far into the grey zone.

For companies that employ them, the trick is to ensure no one knows they have been hired. Once that little secret is out, the sleuths can become an instant liability. Andrew Regan scored a public relations victory of sorts when the Co-op admitted using private detectives. It has tarnished its otherwise squeaky clean image.

were a natural fit with the business weekly, has been appointed as the editor. Charles Kerr, 25, the former sales director of *Sunday Business*, has been appointed as the publishing director. Readers will remember that both men were caught in London Zoo, attempting to steal a penguin.

### Hot plate

DAVID PROCTOR, managing director of Xpedit Systems, the fax service provider, has been showing off his latest toy. Squeezed in the executive parking spot of the York-based company is a rather unexciting executive saloon, emblazoned with the number plate "AI FAX". Proctor forked out more than £1,000 for the Eighties throwback, and insists that it was money well spent. "My children think it's terrific," he boasts.

MORAG PRESTON

### Black and blue

A NON-EXECUTIVE director at CrestCo is cutting her teeth as the Tory candidate for the Labour stronghold of Kirkcaldy.

Charlotte Black, 37, the designer-clad marketing director at Brewin Dolphin, won't be back in the office until May 6. A "born and bred Fifer", currently living in Mayfair, her family have been on the board of Nairn's, the linoleum factory in Kirkcaldy, for more than a century. A local businessman has already fallen for Black's slogan ("If you want a bright future — vote Black"), offering her a nightclub bouncer to act as chaperone.

But what about CrestCo? "Alliance & Leicester is just a dress rehearsal for the big bang in June," she says. "As far as I can see, everyone is in their costume and is ready to go."

### Like old times

PETER DOYLE, a director at Zeneca, is joining Oxford Molecular as a non-executive director. His appointment to the board of the group that boasts five Nobel laureates on its scientific advisory board will be Doyle's first external non-executive directorship. Tony Marchington, chief executive, first met Doyle when he was a young graduate, employed to work under him at Zeneca. "I thought Peter was very scary at the time, but we're very good friends now."

### On course to wed

CONGRATULATIONS to Martyn Arbitt on the en-



Arbitt: keen sportsman

gagement of his youngest daughter, Melanie, a Montessori teacher in London. The 57-year-old father of two and chairman of Perpetual, the top-performing fund manage-

ment group, says he couldn't be more pleased with her choice: Andrew White, the son of a major-general, who works in sports management. Arbitt, a keen sportsman himself, and lover of the turf, has been teaching his prospective son-in-law a thing or two on the golf course. A wedding has been pencilled in for this winter.

### Debit side

ITS NOT figures but spellings that Sainsbury's Bank is struggling with. The supermarket turned finance house promises to give 1,000 reward points to customers opening a savings account whose names have been wrongly spelt on

their cashcard. Mark Rollason, a civil servant living in Coventry, picked up his bonus points when the bank misspelt his name "Rollanson". Keen to cover its mistake, the bank wrote him a letter to apologise, addressed to Mr Rollanson.

### Back in business

ALMOST a year since *BusinessAge* magazine disappeared from the newsstands, it is about to be relaunched. First published by Tom Rubythorn in 1992, it was sold to VNU Business Publications in January 1995. Anil Bhoyral, 30, the former associate editor of *Sunday Business*, whose political leanings

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Notice to Members

#### Results of Voting on Special Resolution

The Special Resolution to approve the demutualisation and flotation of The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, was passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society held on 18 April 1997 at the London Arena, 36 Limeharbour, London E14 9TH. The result of the poll vote, as reported by the Scrutineers Ernst & Young, was as follows:

Votes cast in favour of the Special Resolution: 1,837,382  
Votes cast against the Special Resolution: 21,052

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
Graham Jones  
Secretary  
8 Surrey Street  
Norwich NR1 3NG





## Shares close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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# Staveley to sell division as part of refocusing

BY OLIVER AUGUST

STAVELEY INDUSTRIES is to sell its £135 million measurements business as part of a strategic review that will see the group focus on the service sector.

Roy Hitchens, the chief executive, said he would prefer to sell Staveley Measurements as one business but may consider selling off parts of it if that would

significantly increase the sale price of the business.

Barrings, Staveley's appointed banker, has received statements of interest from companies in the UK and in the US. The measurements business is split geographically between Europe and America.

Mr Hitchens said: "We prefer to sell it all in one because it would be quicker. But this is no fire sale. We are looking at a six-month programme and it's early days."

The sale of Staveley Measurements will result in a stronger balance sheet and a more focused approach which will enhance the growth rate of Staveley Services, the group said.

Cost cutting in the group management structure is also part of the new strategic focus. Redundancies have not been ruled out in the company's quest for savings.

The group said it has identified annual savings in the region of £3 million involving one-off exceptional redundancy and other costs of approximately £4 million.

Harry Tuley, chairman, said: "The recent strategic review has confirmed the board's belief that increasing the focus on our services businesses will create excellent prospects for sustainable profitable growth."

Staveley Measurements comprises Weigh-Tronix and Salter Weighing, Chronos Richardson Systems and Staveley NDT Technologies. The division generated operating profits of £5.6 million in 1995-96 from sales of £135.6 million.

Mr Hitchens said: "We had to make a decision in terms of focusing. And we decided to focus on services which have better growth prospects and more investment opportunities. We couldn't afford to invest in both services and measurements."

Staveley Minerals, the UK salt and brine businesses, will not be sold even though Mr Hitchens conceded that there are no synergy benefits. The division is being kept for its strong profit and cash contributions.

After the strategic review, the group expects to have "a stronger balance sheet and more focused approach to enhance significantly the growth rate of the services business."

The shares responded to the news of the sale with a 5½p rise to close at 179½p.

## Venture capital deals top £3bn

BY ROBERT MILLER

BRITISH venture capital companies had another bumper year in 1996, investing a record £3.2 billion worldwide.

Annual figures published yesterday by the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) show that investment in the UK rose by 31 per cent last year to £2.8 billion. In the past five years UK investment by venture capital firms has nearly tripled from £989 million.

The venture capital industry provides funding for young companies but its main source of growth has been in backing management buy-outs and buyouts. Investment in start-ups and other early-stage companies rose 54 per cent to £131 million but was dwarfed by the record £2.1 billion invested in buy-outs and buyouts.

The average size of financing in deals done last year increased to £23 million from £19 million. The South East grabbed the lion's share of funding with £1.2 billion and it doubled in the North West to £355 million and to £82 million in East Anglia.

David Quysner, chairman of the BVCA, said: "Investment into venture capital funds needs to be increased and sustained so that the industry can continue to play its vital role in supporting the successful high-growth businesses of tomorrow that create real jobs and boost the UK economy."



John McGrath, left, and George Bull have overseen a series of disposals in the past 12 months

## GrandMet sells Aunt Nellies

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the drinks and food company, will take a £39 million charge at the half-year stage after the sale yesterday of its US fruit and vegetable business for £15 million.

GrandMet is disposing of the Aunt Nellies Farm Kitchen business. It was acquired as part of The Pillsbury Company in 1988 and is being

sold to Seneca Foods. The company said the exceptional charge included £28 million of previously written-off goodwill. The business broke even on a turnover of \$50 million last year.

Paul Walsh, chief executive of Pillsbury, said the sale was part of the company's drive to dispose of low-return businesses. GrandMet has made a

series of disposals, including the sale of most of its European food operations, since John McGrath took over as group chief executive last year, succeeding George Bull, who is now the chairman.

Shares in the company rose to a five-year high, advancing 8½p to close at 508½p, on continuing positive comment from analysts.

## Andersen warning over end of PRP

BY GEORGE SIVELL

ARTHUR ANDERSEN, which claims to be a pioneer of profit-related pay (PRP), believes that the phasing out of tax relief on such schemes between now and the year 2000 will push up wage costs for all British businesses. Costs could rise as much as 8.4 per cent, according to an Arthur Andersen survey.

The business advisers believe that retailing, banking and the media, where profit-related schemes are common, will be especially hit but that the ripple effects will extend to the wider business community.

Arthur Andersen believes that more than 14,000 businesses covering 3.7 million workers could be affected. Brian Friedman, head of Andersen human capital services, says: "In many cases there is no easy replacement, so it is a question of how the extra tax is shared between employers and staff."

While it is too early to make definite predictions, at least one third of respondents are looking simply to revert to pre-PRP arrangements. Such a strategy will impose inevitable pain on employees and may eventually push up costs for employers too.

"Unless a PRP exit strategy is clearly communicated to employees, they will feel they are losing out. Employers will then find they have been boxed into expedient action and may end up having to adopt the most expensive PRP replacement option."

A typical business would experience an extra 3.5 per cent increase in its payroll costs, if forced to top up employees pay. In extreme cases, the costs could be as much as 8.4 per cent."

Arthur Andersen said that on March 31 two thirds of respondents to its survey had not told staff of the implications of the phasing out of PRP. The consultants say: "An average employee earning £20,000 a year stands to lose £2,070 over the next three years as tax relief on PRP is phased out. Once wage packets are hit in spring 1998, employees will be concerned. Employers should plan replacement programmes now."

Routes for exiting from PRP include share-based incentive plans, reverting to pre-PRP salaries, benefit packages and making up shortfalls in pay.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Symonds uncovers 'holes in accounts'

SYMONDS, the engineering group, yesterday said that it had discovered "significant breaches of internal controls" in its precision engineering division. The company, based in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, issued a profits warning earlier this month. It has appointed Arthur Andersen, the firm of accountants, to investigate. Rod Ackrill, Symonds's chairman, said: "We have found some holes in the accounts which have managed to wipe out the division's profits for this year. But they won't wipe out the group's profits." Mr Ackrill said that the group's recent acquisitions and its core electronic assembly and printed circuitboard businesses had performed in line with or exceeded expectations.

However, Symonds yesterday gave warning that its pre-tax profits were likely to be lower than expected. An estimate of the results is expected to be included in a trading statement next month, while the final results are scheduled to be announced in June. Meanwhile, Ken Garner, who was dismissed as managing director of the precision engineering division earlier this month, has been replaced by Pat Curran, who joins Symonds from Burnfield, the engineering group based in Solihull, West Midlands.

### AT&T hit by launch costs

AT&T, the world's largest telephone company and British Telecom's main international competitor, reported a 17 per cent drop in first-quarter profits to \$1.13 billion, held back by the launch costs of several new operations. A new online business and expanded local and international services pushed up AT&T's expenses but analysts said the results were in line with expectations. Revenues advanced marginally to \$13.05 billion for the quarter as performance improved on local phone services and other operations.

### British Fittings expands

BRITISH FITTINGS, the stockholding and distribution company, is expanding its business through the £2.8 million acquisition of the pipeline equipment distribution arm of J Saville Gordon (Tubes & Fittings). British Fittings will assume responsibility for paying trade creditors and will collect £3.6 million of debt of Saville's behalf. The purchased business made a pre-tax profit of £760,000 last year on sales of £13.5 million. British Fitting is funding the deal by issuing 1.5 million shares at 113p.

### Bisichi lifts profits 41%

BISICHI MINING, the mining investment company, raised pre-tax profits 41 per cent to £161,000 in the year to December 31. Net assets rose 1 per cent to £6.14 million and earnings were up 48 per cent to 1.35p a share. The dividend increased 8 per cent to 0.81p. The company returned to full-scale mining production for the first time since 1983 and expects the Black Wattle Colliery in South Africa to make a good contribution in 1997 because of strong demand for low-cost extraction coal. The shares rose 2p to 33½p.

### Hamlet buys in JRI

HAMLET GROUP, the distribution group, is buying in the 49 per cent minority in its subsidiary JRI for £3.75 million. Hamlet is paying £250,000 cash and reducing inter-company debt by £3.5 million. JRI made £3.2 million in the 15 months to June 30, 1996, on sales of £38.8 million. Acquisition of the minority is subject to shareholder approval. The company also announced the appointment of John Lusher, a former main board director of Marks & Spencer, as chairman to replace Malcolm Dagul, who resigns at the end of the month.

## Zeneca invests £17m in fungicide plant

BY PAUL DURMAN

ZENECA Agrochemicals is supporting the sales growth of its new fungicide by investing a further £17 million at its manufacturing plant in Grangemouth in Scotland.

The investment will create about 50 jobs in a new formulation and packaging facility for Zeneca's Amistar fungicide. The company has previously spent £22 million on a plant in Grangemouth to make the active ingredient in Amistar.

Since Amistar was first licensed in Germany in April last year, it has gained registrations on 12 crops in 14 countries. Zeneca said that these included cereals

and vines in Europe, bananas in Central America and turgrass in the US. The company expects sales to accelerate as additional registrations are received.

Amistar is effective against a wide range of fungal diseases that have become resistant to existing fungicides. Zeneca also said its new £11 million plant at Cold Creek, Alabama, has begun producing a key constituent for Amistar.

Peter Doyle, the Zeneca director in charge of research and development, has joined the board of Oxford Molecular, the drug design software company.

## Cirqual spending £14m

CIRQUAL, the specialist engineering group, is spending £14.7 million on buying RFI, an electronic components supplier, and Thomas Wild Forgings, a private metal-forging and casting business (Chris Ayres writes).

The biggest outlay is for RFI, which is being bought for £9 million from Siebe, the

international controls manufacturer. Both purchases are being funded by increased bank borrowings.

Cirqual's interim results for the six months to February 28 showed pre-tax profits doubling from £1.34 million to £2.78 million. Turnover was also up, from £9.19 million to £13.47 million.

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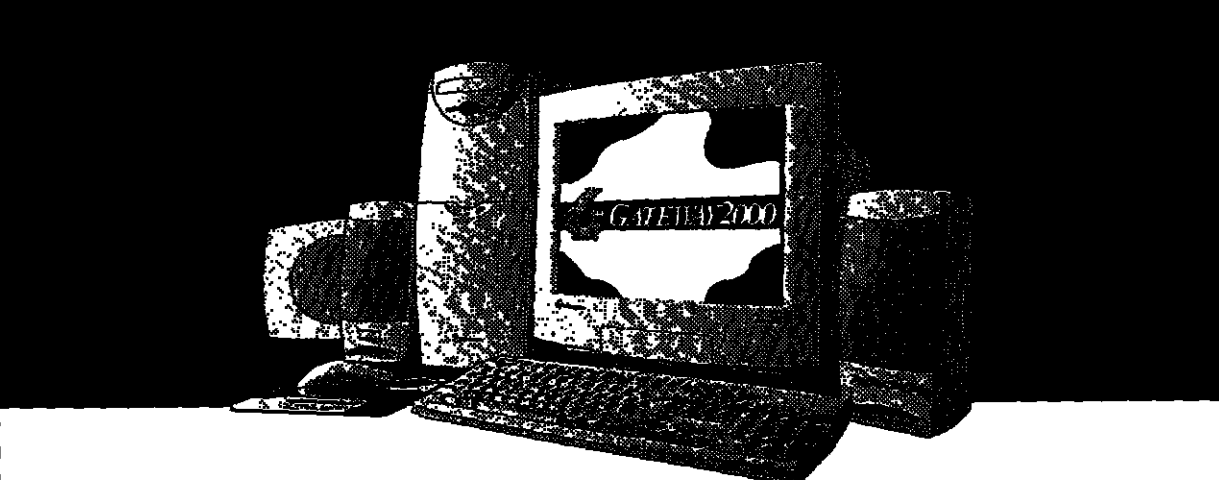
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THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 22 1997

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## ■ VISUAL ART

A masterpiece in miniature: the National Gallery focuses on Dürer's superb painting of Saint Jerome



## ■ LITERATURE

Writer and role model Walter Moseley finds that fame brings its responsibilities

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ POP

Motown gal out of London town: Gabrielle turns on the smoochy sensual stuff for Dublin



## ■ TOMORROW

Will the Royal Opera House go populist when it reopens after the redevelopment?

VISUAL ART: The National Gallery is giving one small panel a special show. Richard Cork describes *Saint Jerome*

# Passion and power of Dürer's saint



Dürer's *Saint Jerome*: the young artist shows profound sympathy with the torment of an old man

Striking his chest with a stone, Saint Jerome atones for past sins in a landscape as wild as his own emotions. The penitent's only companions are a lion, resting after the removal of a thorn from his paw, and two birds poised by a stream. But Jerome pays no attention to them. Absorbed in the ferocity of remorse, he kneels before a crucifix and punishes himself without flinching.

Although Albrecht Dürer was in his mid-twenties when he painted this small panel, it is fired by a profound sympathy with the torment of an old man. None of the scholarship and ecclesiastical renown Jerome accumulated during his long career avails him now. Driven by abject self-abasement into a hermit-like existence, he has flung his cardinal's robe and hat on the ground. The scarlet garment lies crumpled in a tangle of grass and plants, its fur-lined collar still curved into the shape of his neck.

No longer feeling that he deserves to be arrayed with such magnificence, Jerome bares his bald head, withered arms and bruised torso to the mountain air. He wants, like King Lear, to cast off worldly lustre and expose himself to "what wretches feel". Even the Bible, which secured his high reputation when he translated it into Latin, is used here merely as a prop to help him to regain his balance. Its pages offer no consolation as he strains upwards, searching for absolution in the heavens.

Since Dürer's painting is so diminutive, he could have been excused for concentrating on Jerome alone. But the fascination of this remarkably intense image, now the subject of a special exhibition at the National Gallery, arises from its all-encompassing scope. Far from focusing on one man's plight, Dürer defies his panel's physical limits and offers a vision of the macrocosm surrounding Jerome in all its immensity.

The young artist's ability to perform such a feat had been sharpened by a trip to Venice in 1494-95. His Alpine watercolours testify to a deepening involvement

with close observation of nature. The knowledge gained during these studies helps to give the countryside in the National Gallery's painting its first-hand freshness, and the panel's extraordinary luminosity shows how much he must have learnt from his encounters with Venetian art. Bellini's *Saint Jerome Reading in a Landscape*, executed about a decade before Dürer's painting, is suffused with an alert, sensuous awareness of the sun's transforming impact on a craggy locale. The radiance achieved by Dürer surely owes a great debt to his Italian contemporaries, and the National Gallery's panel was for many years ascribed to the Veronese artist Francesco Caroto.

The longer we look at this hallucinatory picture, however, the more it seems the unmistakable product of a northern European imagination. Dürer has no interest in echoing the serenity of Bellini's hermit, who sits on a rock and examines his biblical text with complete calm.

In Dürer's troubled version the lion is given a substantial role, reclining next to Jerome and staring with a pent-up power that might easily erupt in sudden action. The bullfinch and goldfinch by the water, clearly identifiable despite their microscopic size, are within perilous range of his paw. Dürer defines their plumage, and the pebbles on the bank of the stream, with a naturalist's precision. Of all German Renaissance artists, he was the one who best exemplified his era's awakening insistence on an empirical scrutiny of nature. Watercolours included in the exhibition prove how intently he explored the minutiae of rock formations in a quarry near his Nuremberg home, or the interplay between water, pines and sky in an especially limpid scene. Even though some spontaneity was lost, Dürer's rapt response still animates the deliberation he needed in order to paint his panel.

It seems to be freighted with a dense accumulation of knowledge about the landscapes he had studied. But there is nothing pedantic about his determination to pack sections of the picture with an abundance of plant-life and heavily foliated trees.

Above all else, he ensures that the landscape contributes to the emotional turbulence experienced by the saint himself. Looking at this image, we gradually realise how many of its diverse elements end up conveying the pressure inside the penitent's head. The rock face surging above the lion is vertiginous enough to induce dizziness in the most seasoned climber. First threaten to tumble from its heights, and this unsteadiness affects Jerome's body as well. His left knee juts out awkwardly as it struggles to remain secure. Jagged folds of drapery gather around thigh and calf alike, accentuating his bodily strain. He seems almost as liable to fall as the crucifix in front of him, perched so insecurely in the stripped and rotting fibre of a dead tree-trunk.

Even the Gothic church spire in the forest behind seems about to be engulfed by oppressive vegetation, pressing against it from every side. No wonder the old man looks apprehensive as he searches for a sign in the firmament. Unlike Bellini's Jerome, Dürer's saint sports a beard riddled with convoluted waves. They seem to be the outward manifestation of his own nervous energy, and the tension finds no release in the sky blazing above a snowy mountain range on the horizon. Strips of brilliant yellow cast a barbarous glow on the land glimpsed beyond the saint's outstretched right arm, making the earth appear to be streaked with blood.

Still more disturbing are the clouds agitating the space Dürer gives them. In an engraving of the subject he produced around the same time, trees and monstrous

weeds continue to sprout at the top of the picture. In the painting, by contrast, an unusually generous amount of the composition is given over to sky alone. And the clouds invading it are agitated. Dark patches swirl and writhe in front of their paler counterparts, giving them all a gathering instability.

The suspicion that they might be reacting to some greater cosmic turbulence is confirmed by the mysterious image painted on the reverse of the panel. Executed with a slashing freedom reminiscent of the apocalyptic paintings made by Ludwig Meidner just before the First World War, it exchanges the clarity of the other side for tantalising elusiveness. But it appears to centre on a yellow fireball, giving off scarlet rays while shooting across a dark sky. Since Dürer's parents knew the astronomer Bernhard Walther, who helped to conduct pioneering investigations into comets, he may have based this painting on scientific research. In 1492 a meteor fell in Germany, and Dürer was himself able to scan the heavens after buying Walther's house with its built-in observatory.

All the same, his willingness to flick particles of paint into this spattered image removes it from the realms of scientific illustration. It looks more like a nightmare experienced by the artist, a portent of the apocalypse he went on to depict in his celebrated series of woodcuts inspired by the Revelations of Saint John. There, burning stars rain on a defenceless population. Here, in the painted panel, the explosion on one side is not allowed to invade the landscape on the other. But the threat of obliteration is palpable enough, and Jerome is supposed to have heard the trumpets sounding the Last Judgment as he assailed his own flesh. Hence the overriding mood of suspense in a complex work where, even as Dürer rejoices in the richness of the natural world, he emphasises its alarming fragility.

● The exhibition is at the National Gallery (0171-747 2885) until June 8

BETWEEN Ireland and London, in the never-never-land beyond passport control in the apparently endless tubular corridors at Heathrow's smart new Pier 4a, are a series of deliberate, well-judged artistic interventions. Complaints about the length of the walkways prompted the BAA, advised by the Public Art Development Trust, to give three Irish artists a rare opportunity to try out repetition on a non-stop, not necessarily willing audience. In a strange, unnerving take, where what seems to be a reflection in a mirror turns out to be a precise and exact copy running down the other side, Andrew Kearney's elaborately rounded counters protrude from the wall like closed sea anemones. Each carries a numerical count which appears to change, move or shift at

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

the passing of each passenger. In the middle of the journey, Philip Napier has shunted up a mass of black and white printed place names from the front of Irish buses till they appear from far away to be a sea of pointillist painting. From close up a mass of familiar as well as unknown names are accompanied by the melodious sound of names read out in Gaelic. In the last section, *Points of View* by Frances Hegarty, a number of photographic portraits of past passengers have been adjusted, extended, distorted in the computer until they work with the movement along the conveyor or walkway.

Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1, Pier 4a (0181-745 7224) until December.

□ THREE photographs and two paintings from the Eighties by Julian Schnabel, the last big "romantic" painter, are on show at Timothy Taylor Gallery. *Bucephalus* (1988), a large painting upon a dirty tarpaulin, has chunky lettering spelling nothing much painted across it, yet despite the fact that such grand paintings are out of fashion, it still looks good. Timothy Taylor Gallery, 1 Bruton Place, London W1 (0171-409 3344), until May 24.

□ AT Laurent Delaye there is a mixed show, curated by Margaret Murray, of image-packed new American painting. Cheryl Donegan shows a few dull unstretched

canvases, while three video monitors show the artist in various stages of making a painting. Christian Schumann's *Eterna* shows pill bottles and teardrops in a colourful caricature cartoon vision. "Naughty" Nicola Eisenmann has set up a display like a window into a seaside junk shop, interwoven with her slightly adolescent doodles and cheeky drawings. Across the surface of Steve DiBenedetto's *Cathedral* a network of detail spins together a highly coloured web of receding perspective. Alexis Rockman shows a world above and below the water line: the atmosphere is sultry, sinister and tropical. Laurent Delaye Gallery, 22 Barrett Street, London W1 (0171-629 5905), until May 24.

SACHA CRADDOCK

## Much too late the heroine

With a brace of hit singles, a platinum-selling album and numerous awards to her credit (including a Brit for Best Female Artist), Gabrielle is one of the most successful of the British singers operating on the soul/pop interface.

Strangely, Gabrielle did not make her entrance until after the nine-piece band had warmed up with a largely instrumental funk work-out, thus eschewing the first rule of showbiz: always make a strong first impression. When she did appear, elegantly clad in a long black dress and matching jacket and shades, it was full speed ahead into a set that comprised much of her second, eponymous album.

*I Live in Hope and Baby, I've Changed* reveal Gabrielle's knack for combining the emotive phrasing of seminal Motown soul with the musical accoutrements of the contemporary pop ballad. The effect is that the songs walk a precarious tightrope between the profound and the bland. Gabrielle's deep, smoky voice is just the right mix of knowing world-weariness and smoochy sensuality but it is at its most poignant during *Alone*, when Gabrielle's mournful tones are accompanied by a sole acoustic guitar.



Gabrielle: successfully mining the rich soul/pop seam

## POP CONCERT

Gabrielle  
Olympia, Dublin

There was only widespread dancing in the seats during the encore, when Gabrielle sang her three most popular hits, the Bacharach/David classic *Walk on By*, *Give Me a Little More Time* and *Dreams*.

To return to showbiz tactics for a moment, Gabrielle would have been better advised to play one of these trump cards earlier in the show instead of lumping them together at the end, when the game was all but lost.

NICK KELLY

## Private eye firmly in the public ear

These days, Walter Moseley is less a writer of detective stories than an American icon. Hettie Judah reports

Ten years ago, Walter Moseley paid his rent by programming computers. One day, he broke out of program code and typed: "On hot, sticky days in Southern Louisiana the fire ants swarm." With that, Moseley became a writer.

Last week Moseley was fielding questions from an audience at the NFT. He was mesmerising to watch; eloquent, wise, witty and self-effacing. His woe-begone patriarch's face could travel from empathic concern to an ironic "Yes, Miss Daisy" in seconds. It was like watching Moses doing stand-up comedy.

In the intervening decade, Moseley has written nine novels, a couple of screenplays and been heralded as the hottest crime writer of his generation and a major voice in Afro-American fiction. On the 1992 campaign trail, Bill Clinton flashed Moseley's novels like badges of credibility. Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins, Moseley's reluctant hero, is officially the President's favourite detective.

Moseley's NFT appearance coincided with the publication of *Gone Fishin'*, a novel featuring Rawlins and his psychopathic sidekick, Mouse, in pre-Second World War Texas. The novel is as fecund and bizarre as the bayou that spawned it, explaining the deep bond between the gentle Everyman Easy and the murderous Mouse. Far from being a derivative "prequel", this was the original Rawlins novel, written in 1988, shortly after his computer-programming epiphany. Asked why *Gone Fishin'* had to wait nine years for publication, Moseley joked that the book was written "FTM - pre-Teri Macmillan".

A day later, Moseley eases back on a sofa and lodges a can of Coke in the crook of his knee. I ask him whether Macmillan's blockbuster, *Waiting to Exhale*, really made such a difference to black authors. "She broke a barrier for black writers," he says. "A black audience bought the book en masse; it identified with the book and would buy more books. She opened up a market that was already there."

Unlike Macmillan's comfortable middle-class world,



Walter Moseley, begetter of cult hero Easy Rawlins

*Gone Fishin'* lingers long on the visceral. It is soaked in woodoo, fish guts, patricide, bleated toads and a grotesque scene with sausage fat. Moseley freely admits that he never holds back on physical description. "For poor blacks living in the deep South, violence is a way of life. You don't have much, but the little bit you have, you have to protect."

Moseley's written language is exquisitely observed; a rich, accented dialect. "Simple language is dangerous language," he says. "Language that tells the truth, that you can understand, is dangerous; language that is flowery and obfuscated and removed into some kind of scholarship is not taking any risks."

For all his determined realism, this is not Moseley's own language, and the experiences he details are those of a generation before him. "I lived in a neighbourhood in Los Angeles where most of the people had come from the deep South. When I was a child the stories I heard were from the deep South; obviously those are the stories that I would first start writing."

Eventually Moseley brought the characters of the unpublished *Gone Fishin'* for-

ward to 1948, following the black migration from the South to the jazz-soaked, crime-ridden streets of Los Angeles. The result was *Devil in a Blue Dress*, recently made into a film as excellent as the book. It, and its successors, were published as detective fiction, but the problem-solving genre is used almost as an excuse to tackle problem issues: McCarthyism, rape within marriage, child prostitution... He has also founded Black Genius, a panel of 14 speakers including himself and the film director Spike Lee, which discusses everyday problems with local audiences - first in New York, but soon across the country.

His status in America is now such that a walk-on part in his favourite television sitcom has been discussed. His growing potency as a black icon is apparent. Does he not feel crushed by responsibility? "I remember my father - who was no Republican - saying: 'There's one thing I liked about Eisenhower: he went to work at nine, he worked until five, and after that he went home. If you are the President, that's a hard job. You can't get exhausted, you can't get overly tired,

because you might push the wrong button.' I think that's how I feel; I'm one kind of role model, I'm the one who is reasonable, who doesn't take on too much."

But hold on to a minute: Moseley's modern Socratic dialogues *Always Outnumbered*, *Always Outgunned* are published in October. Last week he finished a science-fiction novel, and the next *Easy Rawlins* mystery, *Bad Boy Bobby Brown*, is on its way. Then there's movies, plays, his Black Genius road show... does the man America listens to listen to himself?

● *Gone Fishin'* is published by Serpents Tail

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# The Big Sheep provides a tale of innovation

IF YOU cannot avoid having an inconvenience thrust upon you, try to turn it to your advantage. So the Turner family decided when a main road was built through land near the town of Bideford, Devon, that their ancestors had owned for 350 years.

By the time the road opened in 1987 — with a junction only yards from the 400-acre farm at Abbotsham — Michael and Julie Turner, who were sheep and arable farmers, had decided to use their new accessibility to create a tourist industry, focused on sheep. Mr Turner then decided to start a milking flock and dairy that would be central to the enterprise.

After several years' extensive research, and obtaining planning permission, they started the Big Sheep in 1988 along with their son, Ric, who had just left college with a degree in agriculture.

That year 20,000 visitors arrived and the new venture won the English Tourist Board's award, England for Excellence. It also achieved a distinction in the British Tourist Authority's "Come to Britain" category.

Although the Big Sheep is open all year, the busiest time begins at Easter. Generally there are 600 sheep (many more at lambing time), of which 200 are milked — a visitor attraction in itself.

The farm products, made from pasteurised ewes' milk, are popular, particularly with people allergic to other types of dairy produce. Milk is supplied to delicatessens and

**Sally Watts finds a number of businesses diversifying through their links with the tourist industry**

health food shops in the South West, including Cheltenham and Swindon, while hard and soft cheese is dispatched all over the country through mail order.

At first this was made by the Turners. Mr Turner is chairman of the British Sheep Dairying Association and he and his wife learnt the craft by attending a course in Scotland. The farm has won a certificate for quality produce at the International Cheese Festival.

Other sheep milk products have been added: ice cream (made on site and sold at, among other places, Bideford's theatre), fudge and some ten flavours of yoghurt. These are contracted out, using the farm's milk.

The Big Sheep is currently attracting 100,000 visitors annually; perhaps more this season because the 1997 *Good Guide to Britain* has named it Devon's family attraction of the year. The secret, says Mr Turner, is to have live shows and demonstrations, not videos.

"Something is happening

here every half an hour. We cater for everyone from a three-year-old to a granny."

Local people are trained to demonstrate spinning and weaving in the farm shop, which sells rugs and knitwear, and takes orders for pullovers handknitted from Big Sheep wool. This year a second, covered adventure playground will open — the first is open-air — and catering has been extended. Originally this was managed by Mrs Turner, who provided home cooking.

There are daily sheep dog trials and even sheep racing: at 3.20 every afternoon six animals compete along a 200 yard course from paddock to milking parlour.

In an area of high unemployment, the Big Sheep employs more than 20 people in the winter, about half of them full time, and twice this number in the summer.

Ric Turner, who is 31, is applying for funding from the European Union in order to increase the number of jobs — and shows. The venture, he says, has borrowed "several hundred thousand pounds" from Midland Bank, and turnover is well above £500,000.

The Big Sheep has become a leading open farm. Ric Turner says: "We spent three years trying to stop the road being built, but now it brings a lot of visitors — school groups, parties of adults. People come for a day out, a good time. It's light-hearted fun — a theatre on the farm."

The Big Sheep: 01237 472366



Best, baa none: Ric Turner has seen the Big Sheep named Devon's family attraction of the year

## Small firms form backbone of what will be world's largest industry

TOURISM and small businesses are vital to each other. By the year 2000, according to the Scottish Tourist Board, tourism will be the largest industry worldwide, led mainly by small firms. In England, more than 90 per cent of tourist-related businesses have fewer than ten staff, while Welsh tourism employs 9 per cent of the working population.

Small independent enterprises form the industry's backbone, offering B&B, self-catering and small hotels, while 134 farms, accredited by the Welsh Tourist Board, have formed local self-marketing consortiums. Among outdoor pursuits are riding, pony trekking and mountain biking. In Scotland, sole operators offer hill climbing or walking packages with guiding.

Standards matter. Training schemes, often subsidised, range from courses for managers and employees who deal with the public, disabled people and foreign visitors, through basic instruction in languages such as Japanese.

Scotland runs Tourism Business Success: eight optional modules, such as marketing and finance, that count towards a National Vocational Qualification.

"Tourism is a good line for small businesses, provided they have high standards, give good service, join the local tourist board and take training courses," says Mark Dowling, development director for South East England region.

Many ventures have added attractions: vineyards may include a shop and/or restaurant; there is one that even has a herd of llamas. Risebridge Farm Holiday Cottages, a self-catering family business with ten cottages on a former hop farm at Goudhurst, provides indoor swimming, squash, badminton and a gym.

For self-employed people there is guiding — but it is best to have a Blue Badge. This requires an expensive two years of training, stringent exams plus an entrance

examination to weed out the doubtful.

Philip Gelling, a London Blue Badge guide for 12 years, says that a second language — especially a less well-known one — is an asset.

Guiding is well paid, with the added bonus of having the freedom to decide when you work. London has some 900 guides; others operate in Scotland, Wales and the regions.

Other possibilities include a theme restaurant, such as Capital Radio and Football Football, or a special-interest museum.

Bramah Tea and Coffee Museum attracts international visitors "who see Britain as synonymous with tea", says Edward Bramah. He opened it in 1992 in a 10,000 sq ft old warehouse near Tower Bridge.

This year Mr Bramah expects 30,000 visitors — some arriving by the Pool of London ferry to Buter's Wharf — to see his 350-year social and commercial history of tea and coffee, which includes videos and refreshments.

In addition to the collection, there is the cost of premises, display cabinets and marketing, says Mr Bramah, who once worked on a tea plantation.

It is worth seeking sources of start-up funding. For example, Wales offers capital grant aid to encourage start-ups (with a promising business plan) that will provide jobs or expand or create a market.

Tourist boards: England 0181-846 9000; Scotland 0131-332 2433; Wales 01222 499909.



"And still ten days to go!"

## Farmers have grown to appreciate visitors

A FARM holiday has moved far beyond providing pin money for the farmer's wife: today it means business for both farm and locality.

"Tourism and farming are very important here," says Pamela Broadhurst, who offers self-catering and B&B at the traditional hill farm run by her husband, Nicholas, in Derbyshire's Peak District. Mrs Broadhurst started 13

years ago with a self-catering cottage. This proved so popular that she and her husband converted a barn, then opened the house's Tudor wing, also for self-catering. More recently, they provided two bedrooms and a family room for B&B guests.

The English Tourist Board's inspection and grading system rates the premises "highly commended", which means

lined curtains, fitted carpets, two bedside lights and mod-cons. "Service and standards are vital," says Mrs Broadhurst. "People expect the same as at home, if not better."

Mrs Broadhurst is a director and East Midlands representative of the Farm Holiday Bureau (FHB), which began in 1983 with government funding and is now a co-operative for more than 1,000 UK farms.

Those in areas of need may obtain grants for footpaths, fences, computers and so on. The bureau publishes an annual guide, *Stay on a Farm*.

In Devon, farm holiday turnover exceeded £15 million in 1995, part of a farm visitor spend of £275 million. Last autumn, Devon Farms Growth Initiative (DFGI) secured £60,000 over three years — from the EU and the Ministry

of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food — to improve their IT system, enhance and market their brochure and help each farm to buy a fax. Now the DFGI and FHB are expanding into Europe via the Internet.

"We've run some training to increase our professionalism and generate more business," explains Bridget Cole, herself a farmer's wife offering hospitality at her home near Yelverton.

The scheme — backed by the Rural Development Commission, Dartmoor National Park and local authorities — has a visitor helpline run by Jill Balkwill, another farm caterer near Kingsbridge, to put potential clients in touch with vacancies at 120 member farms.

Devon Farms helpline: 01549 550312. Family Holiday Bureau: 01203 696909.

## Boatman aims to stay afloat

AT 48, after a career in TV and film production, Peter Woodley was unable to get a job, so he turned his boating hobby into Adelaide Marine Limited, a small boat hire firm in Norwood, Green, Middlesex.

Mr Woodley started in 1994, investing £120,000, which included a bank loan with his house as security. When the first season ended he was £120,000 in the red. The house is now being sold, which will put the business back in the black. Mr Woodley, his wife and their cat occupy a flat at the boat yard at Adelaide Dock on Grand Union Canal.

Meanwhile, his turnover — £160,000 last year — is moving in the right direction, helped by repairs and refitting, which form the larger part of the business. He has ten boats, including two narrow and five wide beam, bookable through

Anglo Welsh hire company, of Bristol, as well as two craft for Scouts and school parties and a four-berth narrowboat.

Mr Woodley, who has four employees and casual help, finds costs are the biggest worry. He says that rent — for water, land and buildings — and rates are high in terms of likely income. In addition, licensing fees have risen. Survival depends on expansion, so this year he hopes to borrow £250,000 from Business Angels to start a hotel boat service between Greenwich and Windsor. "You don't make much money hiring boats," he says, "but it is the most wonderful life."

Drifting along the waterways on an all-mod-cons narrowboat will draw 250,000 holidaymakers in 1997. Drifters, a consortium of independent holiday boat operators, markets the attractions of a

short break, a week or longer, on 2,000 miles of British Waterways. One of its members, Rose Narrowboats, near Rugby, has been hiring boats for more than 20 years. It has 23 craft — five for weekend and midweek breaks — and a day boat. The company builds its own vessels, has 11 full-time employees and part-timers and is owned and run by two families.

Bryan Ambrose, a director, emphasises the need for sound financial advice, especially as earnings are seasonal. "This is a very capital-intensive business — boats are expensive to maintain," he says. Marketing is another important item. The biggest worry is to be ready, with all the boats painted, at the start of the season. The best part is his customers' satisfaction after a relaxing holiday.

Drifters: 0345 626252.

## Rural Welsh towns receive MTI regeneration grants

By IOLA SMITH

FIVE towns in rural Wales will receive regeneration grant aid under the £800,000 European Union-funded Market Towns Initiative (MTI). Abercraze, Cardigan, Dolgellau, Llanfair Caereinion and Rhyader will each receive up to £90,000 to establish job creation projects in sectors as diverse as craft industries, tourism and sport.

Residents of Cardigan, for example, believe that the town's maritime heritage is the key to its future prosperity. So they are seeking to acquire a 19th century tall ship that can be converted into a floating museum.

Abercraze's citizens, on the other hand, place their focus on developing craft work-



Rowe-Beddoe: venture

shops and sales outlets, while Rhyader is keen to establish an indoor tennis centre and sports hall.

Rhyader's townspeople also want to make contact with

former residents because they believe that some who moved away to more lucrative pastures can be encouraged to return to invest and work in the town.

The Market Town Initiative was first mooted in the Government's rural White Paper *A working countryside for Wales*. The venture was launched by David Rowe-Beddoe, chairman of the Development Board for Rural Wales, who recognises both "the need to invest in communities" and "the importance for rural Wales of sustaining a strong market town network".

There were 25 towns competing for this first round of grant aid, and the five winners will all employ a development officer to bring their projects to fruition.

## Crime costs rise to £2bn a year

THIEVES and vandals are costing small businesses more than £2 billion a year, a study by Norwich Union, the insurance group, shows. The claim is supported by a separate survey of small crime in Leicester that put the national small business bill for all kinds of crime at £3.2 billion.

The NU report found half of all small businesses had been broken into by burglars at an average cost of £1,273 a

break-in. The Leicester report by Crime Concern, the crime prevention charity, found that 75 per cent of companies were victims of crime last year. Incidents included burglary, thefts by customers, criminal damage, losses in transit, fraud and violence.

Businesses suffered an average 3.5 incidents a year, with burglary and fraud the most common crimes. Many businesses fail to take adequate

precautions. For example, Norwich Union found that only one small business in five took extra security measures over Easter, though many claimed to be worried about leaving premises unattended.

Tony Holden, a consultant at Crime Concern, said few businesses took measures other than installing a burglar alarm. His report showed that a minority of businesses were repeated targets for crime.

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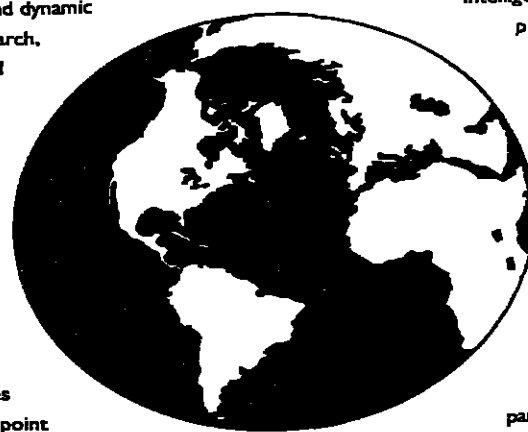
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## LAW

● SEX DISCRIMINATION 45  
● LAW REPORT 49



Leading candidates for prestige posts in a Labour government: Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, left, John Morris, QC, and Paul Boateng

## Labour's top legal eagles

With scarcely a blink of light between the two main political parties, what can lawyers and the wider justice system expect if Labour wins on May 1?

Much discreet lobbying over the past 18 months has cleared a smooth path to Labour's door for both the Bar and Law Society. The Bar already had ready-made networks through the profession itself. Labour's magic circle is now famous for its barristers, not least Mr Blair and Cherie Booth, QC. But the Law Society, through its parliamentary team, has also been oiling the wheels of contact through regular meetings and lunches, with some success.

So lines are well open to the likely members of Labour's legal team. Top of the tree, everyone expects, would be Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, Shadow Lord Chancellor and mentor to the Labour leader. The junior minister to the Lord Chancellor in the Commons is likely (though not certain) to be Paul Boateng, MP.

Speculation continues over who would be Labour's law officers. Betting is now on John Morris, QC, existing Shadow, to do the job at least for the immediate future. But there is still doubt over who will fill the Solicitor-General's post and whether he or she could come from the Lords. One possibility, Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, is now tipped to be Leader in the upper house, leaving the field wide open.

Would Mr Blair create some more Labour legal peers or

Frances Gibb offers the latest on the likely giants in the legal landscape should Labour win the election



Legal heavies: Jack Straw, left, Harriet Harman and Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC



"parachute" in some lawyer MPs to fill the post? Possibles for SG include Harriet Harman, now Shadow Social Services Secretary. Some even suggest the post could be filled from outside Parliament by a top QC — say Peter Goldsmith. Alternatively, Mr Goldsmith could become a special policy adviser. Such advisers are destined to assume more prominence under Labour: at present, the Lord Chancellor's Department has none, but Mr Blair has told each department they may appoint two.

The mood, then, of the profession is expectant. But it is far from fearful. On the criminal side, Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary and a barrister, echoes much of Michael Howard's concerns with his pledges on fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders and backing for new mandatory minimum sentences, albeit with greater judicial discretion. But some

people doubt whether the Crime (Sentences) Act would ever see the light of day. "He can't do it," one lawyer says. "The prisons would be overflowing in no time at all." Where there would be change is in the Crown Prosecution Service: officials are already gearing up to meet proposals for a shake-up of the service to give it greater regional autonomy and to break up its top-centred bureaucracy.

The profession's main concern is on the civil side, where Lord Irvine has pledged a review of legal aid spending, hand in hand with a "cost-benefit analysis" of Lord Woolf's civil justice reforms. Extra funds for Woolf are unlikely. But there is concern that the review would effectively block progress on the reforms. Chris Phillips, Law Society parliamentary officer, says: "We do have a concern in case the Woolf proposals [to speed up civil justice and cut costs] fall by the wayside. We know that

there will be no more money under Labour and so any extra funds will be at the expense of something else in the system." But the Bar is backing such a review. Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, says: "We do need to do this, to see whether the reforms are worthwhile and to take a comprehensive review of the way legal aid operates and to have a more radical look at how it is provided."

Labour, like the Government, wants tough controls on legal aid. But these may be more flexible than now proposed by the Government: what Roger Smith, of the Legal Action Group, calls a "soft" rather than "hard" cap on legal aid. Either way, legal aid rates for lawyers will come under pressure, which would, Mr Phillips says, "be of concern to the profession".

The Bar, however, is hopeful of ridding itself of proposals for standard fees in civil legal aid work, as well as

plans by which legal aid solicitors hold the purse-strings and pay the advocates from their budgets — but the price may be a squeeze on the costs of legal aid in the biggest cases; what Lord Irvine called the "1 per cent of cases costing more than £100 million."

As for plans for the profession itself, Mr Boateng had originally promised a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. With far bigger legal and constitutional fish to fry — a Bill of Rights, devolution, reform of the Lords — that would not be a high priority. In any event, few restrictive practices remain: chiefly these are the rule that stops direct access to barristers by members of the public; and the ban on barristers setting up shop with other professionals in multi-disciplinary partnerships. The idea of a review of these sounds rather like turning back the clock ten years to the Lord Chancellor's Green Papers.

Critics of Lord Irvine and his team say that they will prove far less radical than the present Government's ministers. So far, their proposals do nothing to dispel that view. If the party wins, it will be up to them to prove the critics wrong.

## Appealing aspect of life in a democracy

Lord Justice Bowen suggested in a judgment in 1993 that "if no appeal were possible, this would not be a desirable country to live in". Mindful of the importance of the subject, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, last year asked Sir Jeffery Bowman to chair a committee to review the workings of the Court of Appeal. That committee has now published a consultation paper seeking views on a number of options for reforming the jurisdiction and procedure of the court. Interested persons have until May 2 to offer their opinions.

The Court of Appeal has a pivotal role in civil justice, hearing appeals from the High Court, county courts, the Employment Appeal Tribunal, Social Security Commissioners and many other bodies. Annual reports by successive Masters of the Rolls over the past ten years have identified serious administrative problems, such as increasing caseloads and lengthening delays, with more and more cases being presented by litigants in person.

In his report, *Access to Justice*, Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, identified the objectives of the civil justice system: to secure just results, by a fair procedure, at a sensible cost, with reasonable speed, in a manner comprehensible to litigants, responsive to their needs, providing as much certainty as possible, and by means that are effective in the sense of being adequately resourced and organised.

The consultation paper recognises these objectives, and that the Court of Appeal "is unable to put them all into effect at present". It therefore suggests that consideration should be given to altering the jurisdiction of the court so that fewer cases come before it, and improving its efficiency by changing the manner in which it conducts its work.

The workload of the Court of Appeal can and should be reduced in the interests of all litigants (and the health of the judiciary). Disappointed litigants whose cases have been rejected by a lower court or tribunal have no entitlement to an appeal. If their claim or their defence is not well-founded, the sooner they are so informed the better. In their own interests as well as those of the opposing party and other litigants whose cases are waiting to be heard.

At present, leave to appeal is required in many, but by no means all, cases. Rules of court should provide that no case shall be heard by the Court of Appeal unless leave to appeal has been granted. If a prospective appellant is unable to satisfy the lower court or a judge of the Court of Appeal that there is

a seriously arguable case, or that there are otherwise public interest reasons for hearing an appeal (for example, to clarify an important point of law), the time of the court should not be occupied.

Applicants for leave to appeal currently have a right to an oral hearing, even where the Lord Justice who has considered the papers takes the view that the application is manifestly ill-founded. There is no justification for such a rule. The European Court of Human Rights has held that even in criminal cases there is no right to an oral hearing of an application for leave to appeal. Oral hearings of such applications should be the exception rather than the rule, taking place only if the judges of the Court of Appeal think that oral argument may help them to decide whether to grant leave. A litigant has no right to waste the resources of the court.

Renewed applications for leave to move for judicial review need not be heard by three judges, as is the current practice: two is sufficient. Unless the case involves an issue of general legal importance, appeals from county courts should be heard by a Court of Appeal consisting of one Lord Justice and one High Court judge. In fast-track county court litigation (designed for the simpler cases, in particular, defended actions in which the claim is for £10,000 or less), appeals should be heard by a High Court judge unless the issue is one of general importance.

For those cases which are heard on appeal, the Court of Appeal needs to continue its move away from unconfined oral advocacy. Judges need more time to read the skeleton arguments, the documents and relevant case law in advance of the hearing, so that they can focus the oral argument on the central issues. Judges of the Court of Appeal vary greatly in the approach they adopt in the hearings. The Court of Appeal should be more willing to impose time limits on oral argument, to focus the minds of all concerned. Most cases turn on one or two central issues, and the judges should ensure that less of the hearing is spent on a long knock-up before play actually begins.

According to Ambrose Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary* (1906), "to appeal" is "to put the dice into the box for another throw". Sir Jeffery Bowman and his colleagues cannot remove all of the uncertainty of an appeal (and the consequent entertainment it provides for litigation lawyers). But the review has the opportunity to suggest some important improvements to procedures.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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## From silk to a seat

MORE THAN 150 lawyers are standing for Parliament. According to the latest figures collated by the Law Society parliamentary unit, 72 solicitors and 79 barristers are seeking seats — 72 of them standing for re-election. There are 91 Conservative lawyers, 39 Labour, 18 Liberal Democrats and three for Plaid Cymru.

Thirteen lawyer MPs are standing down, including Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Alex Carlile, QC, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman and John Fraser, Labour's legal affairs spokesman.

Among new lawyers tipped for Parliament are Tory solicitors Eleanor Laing (Epping Forest), Humphrey Malins (Woking) and David Ruffley (Bury St Edmunds), and Labour solicitors Hazel Blears (Salford) and Maria Eagle (Liverpool Garston).

### Cutting comment

PROFESSOR Richard Stone, dean of Nottingham Law School, is to succeed Mary Phillips as dean of the Inns of Court School of Law. The appointment means that the two top jobs in barrister training have gone to past and present Notts law school deans, who will now be rivals.

## INNS AND OUTS

Nigel Savage was dean until April, 1996, when he took over as head of The College of Law. The college, main provider of the solicitors' legal practice course, will also be one of the main providers of the Bar vocational course from this September.

Professor Savage welcomed Professor Stone's appointment, but said: "I'd have thought that the Bar school needed a surgeon rather than an academic."

### Gallows humour

IN WHAT is probably Cameron Markby Hewitt's last

contribution to Anglo-French understanding before the firm disappears into the maw of the new Cameron McKenna combine on election day, James Burnett-Hitchcock, the senior litigation partner, invited four French senators to look at our legal system.

The French are going through their own version of the Woolf report to find ways to speed up justice. The senators met Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor.

However, they are unlikely to go down the proposed English route of more active case management by judges.

### Dinners all round

LORD MACKAY of Clashfern, the outgoing Lord Chancellor, is being feted on all fronts. Sir Thomas Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, is hosting a private dinner for him: the officials who each held the office of private secretary have entertained him and even the legal correspondents of national newspapers last week held an unprecedented dinner for him.



Lord Mackay: feted

Insiders say this would probably lead to protracted cases, not shortened ones. "Case management by French judges would put the system's head in a noose," says one source. Surely the solution is simple? Give them the rights to guillotine.

### Light touch

ROBERT OWEN, QC, has been assuring chambers that the Bar intends a "light touch" in its newly announced moves to implement the Bar equality code and ensure chambers' compliance. "We will not," he said, "be heavy-handed in helping chambers to implement this code. We will be consulting and co-operating with chambers."

### Righting a wrong

LONDON solicitors have won fresh assurances that criminal suspects will not be deprived of a lawyer during interviews at police stations.

After negotiations with the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association, the Metropolitan Police has agreed to remind officers they should inform suspects of their right to legal representation before each interview. Members had complained that duty solicitors were giving initial telephone advice to suspects only to discover that subsequent interviews were taking place without them.

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# Where men still rule

The law is a ground-breaking profession, except for women, says Clare McGlynn

Sex discrimination is increasingly recognised as a fact of life in the legal profession. Achieving change, however, is difficult and slow. One strategy that can be adopted with potential success is to emphasise the business case for equality, which emphasises the fact that the training and recruitment of women lawyers is an expensive business, so sensible employers will capitalise on their investment by seeking to train and promote women lawyers. Research from the CBI and the Equal Opportunities Commission shows that equality can be costly for businesses if they do not introduce anti-sex-discrimination practices.

Opportunity 2000, a business-led campaign, provides a proven formula for putting the business case into action. It has one clear objective: to increase the quantity and quality of women's employment opportunities. Underpinning the campaign is a belief that organisations that fail to utilise their female resources are compromising competitive performance.

For law firms, membership of Opportunity 2000 could work as a focus and impetus for action, ensuring that the voices of women lawyers seeking to change the culture of a very masculine profession have a cogently researched and argued basis for their arguments and suggestions.

To illuminate this debate, the organisation Young Women Lawyers surveyed employment practices at the biggest 200 solicitors' firms. The results were disappointing for several reasons.

In 1995 YWL found that only 25 per cent of new partners in the biggest 100 firms were women. This year, we found that this figure had risen to only 27 per cent (26 per cent in the largest 200 firms). Women have been entering the profession in almost equal numbers for more than ten years, but this is still not borne out in partnership numbers.

YWL found, also in 1995, that of the biggest 100 firms, 24 per cent offered paternity leave. This figure has risen to 39 per cent, falling to 30



Celebrating female success: Cherie Blair, QC, at the Women Lawyer Conference in London this month

per cent in the largest 200 firms. Paternity leave represents a move towards a greater recognition of the role that fathers should play in the care of their children, and the evidence is that law firms are taking a step in the right direction. But progress is slow, especially when compared with the 70 per cent of Opportunity 2000 firms offering paternity leave.

Figures for parental leave are even lower. Only 10 per cent of the largest 100 firms (8 per cent of the largest 200) offer parental leave, compared with 35 per cent of Opportunity 2000 firms. Almost as disturbing was the expressed ignorance of many respondents, including some of the largest City law firms, as to exactly what parental leave is.

More worrying is that the European Community has adopted a directive providing for three months' unpaid parental leave. It is not yet applicable in the UK, but a change in government may lead to the implementation of the directive. Some awareness of the directive from law

firms could surely be expected. We sought information on the availability of part-time working for both men and women. One firm displayed its antiquated and discriminatory views on this issue by declaring that it would consider requests for part-time working from women, but "not at all for males".

There is clearly little hope that working practices and the stereotyping of men and women's roles will change while such prejudices remain. Forty-seven per cent of the largest 200 firms replied that partners could work part-time and 66 per cent of firms offered part-time work to assistant solicitors.

The final disappointing factor was the response rate: just under a third. This contrasts with a 60 per cent response rate when YWL carried out its first survey two years ago. This time we did not warn firms that we would name them if they did not respond. Surely it would not take such a threat for law

firms to respond? Some firms refused to disclose information on their policies. Perhaps they were embarrassed to reveal the few numbers of women partners or the lack of appropriate employment practices; or perhaps they were keen to keep such valuable information out of the marketplace.

To ensure real equality for women lawyers, real institutional change is required. The development of more flexible and "family-friendly" employment policies would be a move in the right direction, and the lessons and membership of Opportunity 2000 could help to bring this forward.

The author is a lecturer in law at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and chairs Young Women Lawyers. Lady Howe, Chairman of Opportunity 2000, and Tony Gilling, Law Society President, will discuss the role of Opportunity 2000 and the business case for equality at an open meeting next Tuesday at 6.30pm in the Old Council Chamber of the Law Society. To attend, send a cheque (£3 members, £5 others) payable to YWL, 76 Milton Grove, London N16 8QY. Further details: 0191-222 7616.

Edward Fennell reports on an opportunity for lawyers

## British firms bridge the Gulf

The European Union is paying increasing attention to the Arab world (known euphemistically in Brussels as "the Mediterranean countries"). Last week it held a 27-nation Euro-Med conference in Malta and this week its Communities Corporation Programme is sponsoring a conference in Abu Dhabi organised by the British Middle East Law Council to examine legal developments in the Gulf area.

The BMEL is widely complimented for doing a good job in waving the flag on behalf of "British invisibles" and the conference is of considerable importance for UK law firms operating in the region.

The Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry have given their backing to the event and the British ambassador, Anthony Harris, is making a keynote speech.

Featured on the programme are speakers from most of the top London firms, including Allen & Overy, Freshfields and Linklaters & Paines, while the driving force behind the event is Ibrahim Kanaan, the secretary-general of the BMEL, who is also a lawyer with Elliott & Co.

Mr Kanaan says it is vital that London lawyers should demonstrate their collective commitment to this part of the Middle East. He says: "The Gulf is the most stable part of the region. Increasingly, the law practised locally is being required to meet international criteria."

"For example, there are developing capital markets in the Gulf and the area is being seen as an arbitration centre. In the light of this, there has been a need to update both the British and the Gulf legal professions about what has been happening. An exercise in comparative law of this kind is valuable."

One of the most delicate issues is how western financial techniques, which are the bread and butter of a City lawyer's life, can be reconciled with Islamic law and, in particular, its prohibition on charging interest.

Even some of the speakers at the conference admit privately that



Kanaan: driving force behind a conference in Abu Dhabi

they are mystified by the devices used to get round the problem.

The trigger to this development is the quickening process of economic transformation. Some states are starting to see the end of their oil reserves. Others are no longer content to sit back passively on oil revenues.

Industry is starting to develop

**"There is no longer the huge pot of money from oil, but this is stimulating these initiatives"**

and new ways of raising money are being adopted — hence the capital market.

Much of the investment is coming from the US and the risk is that this could create an opportunity for US lawyers to grab most of the work.

London's advantages are its traditional links with the region and its experience in developing public and private partnerships. In particular, the British experience of the private finance initiative is attracting considerable interest from Gulf bankers and lawyers — so much so that most of the Linklaters' session at the conference is devoted to explaining how PFI works.

Simon Burch of Linklaters says: "There is no longer the huge pot of money from oil that there used to be in the Gulf, but this is stimulating these economic and industrial initiatives. At Linklaters we have an excellent project finance practice, so of course we feel we have a lot to contribute to these initiatives as they get off the ground."

Linklaters' practice in the area is described as "steady" with enough work coming through to make it a sustainable interest to the partnership.

Firms such as Clifford Chance, Allen & Overy, Richards Butler and Simmons & Simmons have long-standing offices in the area, while those who do not continue to debate the merits of opening there.

One possible threat to London lawyers, however, is an increasing "Gulfisation" of professional services. This could mean that non-local firms are squeezed out.

One of the most significant signs of this trend occurred last autumn when Richards Butler set up in Oman in conjunction with a local law firm, Said Al-Shahry.

According to Said Al-Shahry, the principal at Said Al-Shahry Law Office, he had wanted to link up for some time with a western law firm to take advantage of the new business opportunities.

He says: "Oman is enjoying a high level of economic activity and foreign investors and businesses are participating in an unprecedented way."

The BMEL is helping to ensure that London gets some of the benefits from this growth.

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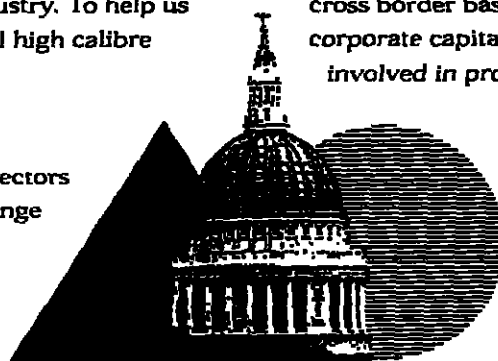
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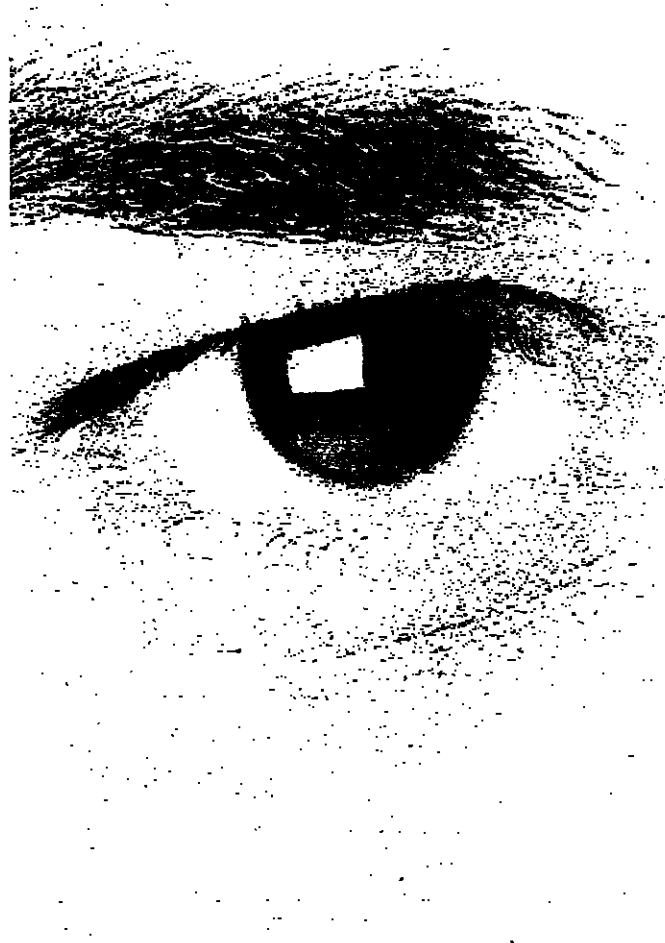
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### Personal Comments

Most candidates know how important it is to present well at interviews. Those who dress down, chew gum, slouch in with hands in pockets, or sit in reception reading a copy of *The Sun*, are probably less than enthusiastic about the vacancy. They are acting out some private compulsion of their own. However, even normal candidates can find it difficult to gauge what will create the right impression.

Two recent instances. The first was a candidate who went to see a City firm dressed in his best shirt and tie, with his best rings on his finger. The shirt was a striking shade of yellow, the tie was flowery, and the jewellery was simply excessive. Fortunately, the interviewer shed him, and rang us to suggest that if he returned for a second interview he might consider a more conventional appearance. This he did, and got the job.

The second was a candidate who was impressive in all respects other than his weak handshake. The personnel manager rang us to suggest that when meeting the senior partner (who had a thing about handshakes) the candidate be rather more forceful. We passed this on, and he, too, was offered a job.

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Michael Chambers

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Firms throughout the North are now interviewing for various commercial and non-commercial commercial positions. Please call for details.

#### Legal Researcher

Chambers' legal directory needs qualified lawyer to join team researching the legal profession. Ring Reena SenGupta: 0171-606 1300.

## CURRENT CONTRACTS

### EMPLOYMENT

Assistant solicitor sought by this small commercial firm, based in the City, whilst they are looking for a suitable permanent candidate. Applicants should have experience of both contentious and non-contentious employment law and should also have dealt with both employers and employees. Contract to start immediately for a 3-6 month period. Ref: 39757

### FAMILY

Widely based, general London practice requires a solicitor to assist with heavy workload as soon as possible. Ideally candidates must have at least 3+ years' ppe together with up-to-date divorce and child care experience. Ref: 38537

### COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Progressive and much respected City firm, needs a 4-8 year qualified solicitor with corporate experience from a similar City background. Immediate start, to assist with heavy workload. Contract is open ended at this stage. Ref: 38856

### COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

Legal department of this public sector group wishes to recruit a solicitor for a 1 year contract to start immediately. Experience of drafting contracts, ideally performance based service contracts, essential; experience of computer contracts an advantage. Ref: 38645

### FINANCE

Ranking/finance lawyer, with 1-5 years' ppe, sought by this small office London firm. Contract is to start immediately and will be open-ended, with the possibility of becoming permanent. Ref: 39761

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Well established firm, with a broad based practice, seeks an experienced commercial property lawyer for a 6 month contract which could become permanent. The position has arisen as a result of a heavy workload and candidates must be able to work on an unsupervised basis. Ref: 39493

### COMMERCIAL/COMPLIANCE

Life assurance arm of merchant bank seeks a qualified lawyer, for their regional office, to assist with the drafting of policy conditions in order to comply with regulations. This will be a one-off project to start within a month. Ref: 38336

### NON FEE-EARNING

Banking lawyer sought by the London office of a leading American law firm to assist with updating of precedents and in particular with the drafting of finance procedures. Position could be part-time or full-time. Ref: 39613

### COMMERCIAL/LEASING

Solicitor/barrister, with around 5 years' ppe, sought by this leasing company to cover for a maternity leave. Candidates must have experience of asset leasing, as well as having a more general commercial background. Contract is to start mid-May for 6 months. Ref: 39588

### EMERGING MARKETS

London based investment bank seeks a solicitor/barrister with a minimum of 3 years' experience in emerging markets to join the legal team for a 3-6 month contract. Experience required must include funded loans, securities and repos. Immediate start. Ref: 39709



SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062 (0171-350 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

SPL is a QD Company

## OPPORTUNITIES

### CONSTRUCTION

Major opportunities at this top 10 firm for a lawyer with 0-3 years' ppe in construction dispute resolution and a lawyer with 0-2 years' ppe in non-contentious construction work. Also needs lawyers with 1-4 years' ppe with experience of drafting English law-governed EPC/construction and other documents. Ref: T26784

### PRIVATE CLIENT

This well-known medium-sized City firm has a market-leading private client practice, making it the perfect move for a lawyer with 3+ years' experience of offshore and offshore trusts, wills and tax planning. This is seen as a key position in the department, and the pay and prospects reflect this. Ref: T37954

### INFORMATION OFFICER

Work at one of the City's leading firms without all the stress. This is a great opportunity for an experienced corporate or commercial lawyer to work full or part-time as this top 20 firm's information officer. The challenge and rewards will be excellent. Ref: T39617

### DEFAMATION

This is the perfect firm to build your reputation as a defamation lawyer. If you have 0-5 years' ppe, you will take on a very important role in this market-leading practice soon become partner. You must have good experience, as well as a high level of stamina and energy for a demanding but exciting job. Ref: T36159

### CORPORATE TAX

Working as a vital cog in this top 20 City firm's corporate wheel, you will be working on the full range of tax matters, from property to shipping, as well as advising a substantial base of your own clients. You will have 1-3 years' ppe and can expect some very exciting prospects. Ref: T39507

### IN-HOUSE DERIVATIVES

This is the place to be if you want to advise on almost every type of derivative. One of the world's leading investment houses needs lawyers with either 2 or 4 years' relevant ppe at leading City firms or other banks to join the team and receive a quite excellent package. Work will be very varied. Ref: T23528

### JUNIOR CORPORATE/TELECOMS

This medium-sized City firm has a mammoth-sized reputation for corporate work, especially in multi-media. It therefore has a fantastic client list across all departments and offers a very bright future to corporate and telecoms lawyers with 0-1 years' ppe. Ref: T39585

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Nick Pescod, Adrian Fox or Jonathan Marsden (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-228 0476 or 0171-286 1441 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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## THE LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN

### GUERNSEY require

### AN EXPERIENCED LAWYER

Guernsey is a self-governing dependency of the Crown. H.M. Attorney General and H.M. Solicitor General are the legal advisers in Guernsey both to Her Majesty and to the States of Guernsey (the island government). Their duties include responsibility for advising all departments of the States, for criminal prosecutions and providing advice generally in criminal matters, and for drafting legislation.

The Law Officers are assisted by a team of 6 professional lawyers, 3 of whom are Crown Advocates, and it is the appointment of one of the latter as the new Magistrate in Guernsey which has led to the present vacancy arising (as from the 1st October 1997).

Applicants should be qualified to practise law in England and Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland and have, preferably, at least 5 years' experience, either in general common law practice, criminal work, legislative drafting or governmental work, or a mixture thereof.

The successful applicant will be expected to qualify as an advocate of the Royal Court in order to appear, in due course, before the Courts and Tribunals of the Islands, on behalf of the Crown and the States, and will then have the prospect of being appointed a Crown Advocate.

The appointment will be on a permanent basis. The salary will be determined by the States Civil Service Board and will be according to qualifications and experience, though the initial salary is likely to be in the region of £37,000 to £39,000.

Further information on the post, application forms and notes on the conditions of service, may be obtained from the Secretary to the Law Officers, St James Chambers, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 2PA (telephone: 01481 723355).

Completed application forms should be returned to the Head of Personnel and Establishments, Civil Service Board, Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1FH to arrive no later than 16 May 1997.



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As the Country's fifth largest banking group, Abbey National enjoys a high profile within the financial services industry, and has 870 branches and some 15 million customers.

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A Solicitor or Barrister, your 3 - 5 years' post qualification experience will be within a Commercial Law firm, or the Financial Services Sector, ideally with an insurance background including litigation. Strong

£competitive + financial sector benefits

communication skills and a proactive approach to the delivery of a business focused legal service are essential.

The competitive salary is supported by a full range of discretionary financial sector benefits.

Please write with full CV and current salary details, by 9 May, to: Angela Stevens, Personnel Officer, Abbey National plc, Provincial House, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1NL.

To support a healthy environment, Abbey National has a no smoking policy. Abbey National positively welcomes applications from every section of the community.



## LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

### CONSTRUCTION

A major City firm with a balanced portfolio of finance, development and construction companies. Our Client practice in this area has expanded dramatically in recent years. The firm offers an outstanding opportunity for a 6 year plus qualified lawyer with substantial construction skills. For partners transferring over, the firm's remuneration structure will immediately reward high flyers. (Ref:9626)

### IN-HOUSE M&A

Unusual role within one of the City's leading investment banks. A corporate finance lawyer is sought to take a lead role in supporting the bank's corporate finance business and advise on UK and cross border M&A and related issues. High profile role within a very profitable area of the bank. Will suit those seeking a responsible role with a significant commercial element in a highly rewarding environment. (Ref:9652)

### UNUSUAL CORP OPPORTUNITY

The opportunity to work in a firm is growing successful in achieving its ambitious plans for growth to a legal practice of some City lawyers by year end. If you are a first rate corporate or commercial solicitor looking for a move to a smaller but high quality team where your contribution will really count, this is well worth exploring. Premium salaries and dynamic and progressive environment. (Ref:9459)

### INSOLVENCY

1-4 year qualified insolvency specialists are invited to apply for positions with this leading City firm. The team of insolvency and non-contentious lawyers is busy and work levels continue to increase. In order to maintain a balanced outlook, the firm wants to spread the load and grow the team at the assistant solicitor level. You will join a pre-eminent name in the insolvency field. (Ref:9466)

### PROPERTY LITIGATION

Junior position for a 1-3 year qualified lawyer has arisen to specialise in property disputes with this international firm. The team will consider both property and litigation solicitors with a desire to combine both disciplines. You need a genuine interest in property, a clear, friendly manner and outgoing personality. You will work in a friendly role with young and enthusiastic partners. Training will be given. (Ref:9288)

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other private practice vacancies registered with us, please contact Andrew Caulfield or Yvonne Smyth (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (01483-828110 evenings/weekends). Alternatively, write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail andrewc@zmb.co.uk

### SENIOR EMPLOYMENT

This medium sized but expanding City law firm is seeking to strengthen its employment law team. Already pre-eminent in this area and with a healthy and productive work environment the team is stable with an excellent, quality client base. As a result of an ambitious business plan an additional partner is sought to help drive the practice forward. (Ref:9686)

### INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Leading investment bank seeks lawyer to be responsible for all legal and regulatory matters relating to its European private client services. Will handle and manage all related legal projects including structuring packages/products, negotiating agreements and risk management. 3-5 years' experience from a City law firm or bank is essential, with experience of negotiating investment management documentation. This is a proactive role which requires significant initiative and creativity. (Ref:9651)

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The Property Department in this active City practice has an impressive client base for its size and the flow of quality instructions continues unabated. As a result, the partners seek an associate, ideally 1-4 years' qualified, technically competent and with an outgoing personality, who is seeking quality of work and quality of life. (Ref:9393)

### BANKING

This collegial and well managed City law firm, led by a friendly team of partners, is expanding its banking practice at the 2-4 year level. The work will be challenging but not repetitive as the firm does not handle high volume, documentation driven, capital markets work. Broad ranging finance experience would be ideal. (Ref:9426)

### COMMERCIAL LEISURE

A newly or recently qualified solicitor is sought by the Central London firm which boasts an impressive transport, aviation, leisure and commercial practice. With an unusual and interesting blend of commercial clients you will gain interesting and high quality experience. Strong academics, commercial training and good drafting and negotiation skills are required. (Ref:9667)

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## SPECIAL CAREER OPPORTUNITY

We are a progressive, well-established seven partner firm.

Our office in the West End requires a dynamic, ambitious top-quality solicitor with a proven ability to handle substantial commercial property transactions for successful and demanding clients. A following, although not essential, will be seen as evidence of the successful applicant's partnership potential. Salary will be structured to enable the right person to earn £80K+.

Please send CV to Box No 4460 The Times.

## STOCKLER CHARITY

This small successful litigation practice seeks to expand in the area of domestic/commercial conveyancing. Application is sought from an experienced practitioner with an established client base. Starting salary will depend on age and experience. The appointment will be made with a view to early partnership.

Applications with CV to:-

2/3 Curator Street  
Chancery Lane  
London EC4A 1NE  
DX: 445 London  
FAX: 0171 404 6717



Shoosmiths & Harrison is one of the country's leading law firms employing over 400 people and with a gross fee income of £12M in the last financial year. Our success in attracting high quality, top notch high calibre clients means that we continue to grow our capacity and to create new areas in the Midlands and South of England. We are seeking first rate solicitors to work in our offices and departments through out the firm as well as to build on this success. All solicitors in these posts will be expected to be a full partner in these exciting and challenging opportunities. It is a highly successful and fast growing firm with a reputation for excellence in the legal profession.

### NOTTINGHAM

Corporate

To handle corporate finance, M&A and related commercial work. 4 years post qualification with a proven track record in these areas.

### Commercial Property

2 years post qualification with a proven track record in commercial property. Specialist knowledge in commercial property and a proven track record in these areas.

SHOOSMITHS & HARRISON

## SHOOSMITHS & HARRISON SOLICITORS

### SOUTHAMPTON

Corporate Finance

Strong commercial background with a proven track record in corporate finance. 4 years post qualification with a proven track record in these areas.

### Commercial Property

2 years post qualification with a proven track record in commercial property. Specialist knowledge in commercial property and a proven track record in these areas.

SHOOSMITHS & HARRISON

### REGLBY

Commercial Property

With a proven track record in commercial property. 4 years post qualification with a proven track record in these areas.

### Commercial Litigation

2 years post qualification with a proven track record in commercial litigation. Specialist knowledge in commercial litigation and a proven track record in these areas.

SHOOSMITHS & HARRISON

### NORTHAMPTON

Commercial Property

With a proven track record in commercial property. 4 years post qualification with a proven track record in these areas.

### Banking

2 years post qualification with a proven track record in banking. Specialist knowledge in banking and a proven track record in these areas.

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### Tax

With a proven track record in tax. 4 years post qualification with a proven track record in these areas.

### REPLIES TO:

With a proven track record in replies to. 4 years post qualification with a proven track record in these areas.

SHOOSMITHS & HARRISON

People we can do business with

## Investment Banking

**Corporate Finance**  
Outstanding corporate finance openings for City lawyers with 0-2 years' post and excellent academic records to join leading merchant bank. Ref 23195 - Claire Hine

**EC/Regulatory**  
Interesting opportunity for 5-year qualified lawyer to join premier investment bank to advise on effects of implementation of EC regulations. Ref 36234 - Claire Hine

**Compliance**  
Leading asset manager requires proactive and analytical compliance specialist to join expanding department to undertake regulatory monitoring. Ref 34613 - Claire Hine

**Capital Markets**  
Leading global investment bank requires a lawyer with 3-5 years' post to join its capital-markets team, exciting and challenging role. Ref 34723 - Niru Chandra

**European M&A**  
Leading bank offers corporate finance lawyers with 2-4 years' post the chance to transfer skills to a non-legal environment; languages essential. Ref 34723 - Niru Chandra

**Derivatives**  
Excellent opportunities exist for ambitious derivatives lawyers with 1-2 years' post to join major European bank in Paris or Singapore office. Ref 36321 - Niru Chandra

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## Great Expectations

### PRIVATE PRACTICE

**Common Property** to £25K  
City: 40 partner firm has role for NQ-1.5PQE solicitor to deal with extensive property matters acting for impressive clients.

**Common Litigation** to £25K  
City: Niche litigation practice with young dynamic partnership seeks outgoing and bright litigation solicitor c2PQE.

**Employment** to £26K  
W.London: Excellent opportunity for ambitious employment lawyer 3-4PQE to front up own department & develop huge potential.

**Civil Litigation to Partner**  
S.Coast: Head of litigation role in small firm awaits experienced solicitor with management and marketing skills.

**Corporate** to £26K  
Berkshire: Fast growing firm with enviable corporate client-base seeks top grade solicitor NQ-4PQE for quality work.

### PRIVATE PRACTICE

**Personal Injury** to £25K  
South: Plaintiff personal injury solicitor/experienced legal executive sought by leading practice for high volume caseload.

**Int Property** to £24K  
City: Highly successful c.60 partner firm seeks a solicitor c4PQE to handle contentious copyright, trademark & IT work.

**Property Lit** to £25K  
City: Top 5 firm with extensive client-base has an excellent opening for a solicitor c2PQE to join flourishing department.

**Fin Services** to £26K  
City: Solicitor NQ-3PQE with good fund management and financial services experience sought by c70 partner firm.

**Property** to £26K  
London: West End property firm seeks motivated 5PQE solicitor to handle secured lending for retail/leisure clients.

### IN-HOUSE

**Banking** to £25K  
City: International bank seeks City trained solicitor c3-6PQE, experienced in structured finance/general banking work.

**Shipping Lit** to £20K  
City: 1.5PQE solicitor/barrister sought by P&I Club to handle insurance claims. Opportunity for lawyer to move in-house.

**Pensions** to £25K  
E Anglia: Financial services company seeks solicitor 6PQE+ experienced in pensions and investment products.

**Oil & Gas** to £25K  
Scotland: UK oil giant seeks lawyer 5-7PQE for expanding dept. Energy/oil & gas experience needed. Overseas travel.

**Finance** to £15K  
City: Dynamic organisation seeks solicitor 5-10PQE to set up and run dept handling int'l finance/investment banking.



For further information contact:  
Lucy Boyd  
Jon Garrett  
Lynne MacCarroll  
All lawyers

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LEGAL RECRUITMENT

127 Cheapside  
London  
EC2V 6BT  
Tel: 0171 600 1690  
Fax: 0171 600 1972

## Lawyer - Lloyds Underwriting Agency

Lloyds Underwriting Agency is a Lloyds Underwriting Agency, underwriting marine, aviation and motor risks. The agency is seeking a lawyer to join its team of underwriters. The lawyer will be responsible for the legal aspects of the underwriting process, including the drafting of policies and the handling of claims. The lawyer will also be responsible for the management of the agency's legal affairs, including the handling of litigation and the management of the agency's legal staff.

Ideally you will be at least 2-3 years qualified, preferably working in the insurance unit of a City firm, though not exclusively. You should have:

- ✓ Knowledge of insurance related law
- ✓ Knowledge of the operations of the Lloyds market
- ✓ Good communication and interpersonal skills
- ✓ Ability to work in an unstructured and entrepreneurial environment

This is a challenging role requiring energy, imagination, versatility and above all the ability to problem solve.

If you would like to discuss this challenge in confidence, please send a CV by one of the following methods to: Delamere de Lisle, Partner, House 10, Grosvenor Place, London SW1P 3LS. Tel: 0171 222 6444 Fax: 0171 222 5552, or E-mail: jd@delamere.co.uk Ref: 7714

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## Major Legal Practice

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The Partnership Secretary will be an important member of the administration function, providing high level support to the firm's management team. Working for the Senior and Managing Partners on a range of matters, he or she will ensure the enactment of partnership decisions, deal with a number of administration tasks and manage several external reporting and commercial relationships with the Law Society, pension fund trustees and insurers. Likely to be aged around 40, candidates should have a strong administrative background. Experience gained in a professional partnership would be useful but the firm is prepared to consider good candidates from a corporate company secretarial or services background.

Please write, enclosing a career/salary history and daytime telephone number, to David Hogg FCA quoting reference H/253/T.

SPORT/EASTERN BLOC - Our client, a niche commercial practice in the insurance industry, has a vacancy for a lawyer to join its team. The lawyer will be responsible for the legal aspects of the underwriting process, including the drafting of policies and the handling of claims. The lawyer will also be responsible for the management of the agency's legal affairs, including the handling of litigation and the management of the agency's legal staff.

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The quality of our work matches anything that is available in the City for variety, interest and the satisfaction of being able to steer your own cases through to their conclusion. It is underwritten by an extensive programme of training and research.

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Our unique, open and much praised management structure means everyone in the firm can see clearly where they are and what they need to do to achieve progress. Coupled with our rate of expansion and plans for future growth, this gives people who have joined CAPSTICKS clear opportunities for career development.

### Quality of life

Our location in Putney puts an end to the miseries of commuting but quality of life is also enhanced by an ethos which, while demanding hard work, doesn't require you to sacrifice a home or social life.



We have a number of vacancies for high calibre lawyers with up to 5 years' PQE in commercial litigation, commercial property, corporate/commercial, medical negligence and employment law.

Please write, enclosing your CV, to Sue Laundy, CAPSTICKS, 77-83 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 2TT. Alternatively, for a preliminary discussion in confidence please feel free to telephone her on 0181-780 4800.



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## LEGAL ADVISOR

AMEC Project Investments Limited is a newly created subsidiary within AMEC p.l.c., an international engineering, construction and development group with an annual turnover in excess of £2 billion.

APIL will spearhead our involvement in concession based construction projects, primarily concentrating on the Private Finance Initiative proposals initiated by the UK government.

Already successful, in joint venture, in securing two major road schemes valued in excess of £350 million, we are the preferred bidder on a number of healthcare projects and are heavily involved in other proposals covering rail, property, roads and health. As a result, we are now seeking assistance for our Senior Legal Advisor at APIL's headquarters in Salford Quays, Manchester.

Ideal candidates will have some 2-3 years post qualification experience either in private practice or in the construction industry, where experience of dealing with contentious work would be an advantage, although not essential. Familiarity with PFI work, either in the UK or overseas would also be an asset, as would some commercial property experience.

With a thorough understanding of contract law, you will have a constructive approach to problem solving and be a highly effective communicator at every level. You should be prepared for extensive travel and be happy to work on the move, using a laptop computer.

Although primarily responsible for advising APIL, you will also be asked to advise other Group companies on occasion. Career prospects for a good teamworker are excellent. A generous salary and benefits package will reflect your important contribution.

Please send your CV in strict confidence to: Ms J A Jones, AMEC p.l.c., Sandway House, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2YA.

We are an equal opportunities employer



## TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS Senior Crown Counsel

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie to the South East of the Bahamas and consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel. Tourism and off-shore financial services are the lynchpins of the economy, with fishing also an important activity in an area characterised by a fine tropical climate and attractive beaches.

Working mainly with TC Invest, the Government investment agency, in the negotiation of commercial agreements between the Government and third parties and their attorneys, you will draft or revise all necessary legal documentation. In addition, you will advise on development projects and the structure of commercial transactions including acquisition and disposal of land so as to promote the Islands' economy and good Government. Providing commercial legal advice to Government and its agencies, with particular reference to inward investment, tourism development and offshore financial services will also fall within your remit.

### QUALIFICATIONS

A qualified barrister, solicitor or advocate, you will have at least three years' post qualification experience coupled with a broad range of commercial expertise. Experience of working in a small jurisdiction would be desirable. Applicants should either be nationals of Member States of the European Economic Area (EEA), or Commonwealth citizens who have an established right of abode and the right to work in the United Kingdom.

### TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

You will be on contract to the British Government for 2 years in service to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Salary will be c.£39,400 p.a. (UK taxable). Additional benefits will normally include variable tax-free allowances, children's education allowances, free accommodation and passages.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 19 May 1997.

For further details and application form, please write to Appointments Officer, Ref No AH304/TB/TT, Abercrombie House, Baginbush Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, stating Ref No AH304/TB/TT clearly on your envelope, or telephone 01355 843352.

ODA is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and applications for this post are sought from both men and women.



**OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION**  
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## Deputy Company Secretary

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EMAP plc is one of the fastest growing and most respected media groups in Europe, publishing consumer magazines, providing business to business communications media, and operating radio stations. The group with operations in the UK and Europe has a market capitalisation of around £1.5 billion.

Reporting to the Company Secretary you will assist in all aspects of company secretarial administration and in managing the group's relationship with its legal advisers. This will include statutory and Stock Exchange compliance, including corporate governance, plus the provision of advice to directors and managers across a diverse range of legal matters including acquisitions, contracts, employment law and intellectual property. There will also be a component of project based tasks.

This is a challenging role for a suitably qualified professional with relevant post qualification experience in a broad company legal/corporate secretariat role. You will demonstrate energy, initiative and adaptability, and you will have the confidence and skills to manage a demanding workload, often under pressure. Your ability to develop strong working relationships with senior managers and professional advisers will be critical to your success in this role.

An excellent remuneration package is available to the successful candidate.

Please write promptly, in confidence with full career and salary details, to Sue Matheson at MSL International Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL. Please quote reference 63080.



HEAD OFFICE LONDON

TEL: 0171 487 5000 11 OFFICES NATIONWIDE



**Adobe**

Adobe Systems is the world's third largest personal computer software company. Founded in 1982 Adobe helped launch the desktop publishing revolution. Today, the company offers a market leading line of software for creating visually rich communication materials across all print and electronic media. Adobe's European headquarters are based in Edinburgh. Employing around eighty people in areas such as marketing, legal services, finance, and operations it provides the highest levels of service and support to subsidiary offices throughout Europe.

## ASSOCIATE EUROPEAN LEGAL COUNSEL

The Associate European Legal Counsel will provide high-calibre advice and support to selected Adobe departments and business units on a wide range of European legal issues. This will include drafting and negotiating all types of software distribution and licensing agreements, trade mark licensing and reviewing press releases, marketing materials and sales promotions. In addition you will provide back-up on general corporate work.

Reporting to the European Legal Counsel and liaising with a wide variety of internal bodies and external advisers, the successful applicant will be a UK or EU qualified Solicitor, Barrister or Advocate with a minimum of three years post-qualification experience in industry or private practice. A customer-focused individual with excellent communication skills, you will operate independently without close supervision or dedicated PA support. Working to tight deadlines within a fast-moving environment, a flexible approach and the ability to prioritise and manage multiple projects effectively is essential.

Your first-class legal skills will include:

- specialisation in commercial contracts and intellectual property law
- experience working with the software industry or other copyright business
- knowledge of EU competition law

Based in Edinburgh, this is a key position requiring a talented professional who will thrive in a dynamic, quality-driven environment. Given the European focus of the role some travel will be necessary and fluency in a second European language is desirable.

As you would expect from a market leader in this field, Adobe offer an excellent salary and benefits package. Relocation assistance is available where applicable.

For further details please call Carolyn Black or Alex Hunter on 0131 557 2223 or to apply send your CV to:

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Hertford

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Consumers' Association publishers of Which? is the driving force behind consumer protection and consumer law, campaigning vigorously for improvements to laws affecting the rights of consumers. We offer a wide range of legal advice in reaction to customer enquiries, mainly through our unique legal service called Which? Personal Service. Based in our Customer Service Centre at Hertford our team of 10 lawyers provide practical advice and assistance to members in need of legal support, helping them obtain access to justice.

We now have opportunities for three lawyers to join this team.

**Senior Lawyer c£24,000**  
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## CYCLING

## Obree rides into row over rules

By Peter Bryan

GRAEME OBREE, twice the world 4,000 metres pursuit champion and the present British 25-mile champion, has had his entry rejected for the national ten-mile time-trial championship next month. Obree, from Scotland, is the British record-holder for the distance.

He claims that his entry has been refused after a series of misunderstandings and errors by officials of the Road Time Trials Council (RTTC). The RTTC, which controls time-trials in England and Wales, also allows members of clubs affiliated to the Scottish Cycling Union to compete in events south of the border.

Obree claimed yesterday



Obree: furious

that he was originally told he did not need a qualifying time for the ten-mile championship near Barton-upon-Humber on May 11, as he was the 1996 25-mile champion.

"The closing date for entries for the trial is published in this year's RTTC handbook as April 22, and my entry was sent off in good time," Obree said. "I then learnt from the organiser that I needed to be a member of a Scottish club to be considered, as I only hold a British Cycling Federation Racing licence, which is recognised internationally. So I joined the Shetland Wheelers."

"The next problem was to learn that I needed to have a qualifying time achieved since

January 1, 1996. I met that by racing last Saturday in Scotland with a winning time of 20 minutes 43 seconds."

However, his effort was to prove in vain. Although the closing date for entries for the ten-mile race was incorrectly listed as April 22 in a calendar printed in the RTTC handbook, the correct date of April 15 was given elsewhere in the handbook.

Obree appealed at the weekend to Phil Heaton, the RTTC national secretary, who confirmed that his entry had not been accepted. Yesterday, Heaton admitted that one reference in the RTTC handbook printed the wrong closing date, adding that the championship rules published elsewhere in the book were quite clear.

"The organiser had received the maximum of 120 riders by the official closing date of April 15 and all of them qualified," Heaton said. "In a non-championship event, reserves may be allowed but that is not permitted for championships."

Obree, Britain's main hope for a medal in the world track championships in Australia in August, was furious. "I have had two of my riding positions banned by the International Cycling Union despite world-wide support and I now find that, on what appears to me to be a technicality, I am receiving similar treatment from the home body."

"I had hoped the championship would be the start of a successful comeback season after a series of illnesses last year that affected my performance in the Atlanta Olympics. It's so disheartening and, today at least, I wonder whether it might be worth trying to take legal action against the RTTC."

This year's championship—if it included Obree—would be one of the biggest attractions of the season. Entrants include Sean Yates, a Tour de France time-trial winner in 1988, and Rob Hayles, the winner last year.

## Nicholls prefers deeds to words

Tony Hoare talks to an outstanding speedway rider who is determined to make up for last year's disappointment

Scott Nicholls will be keeping his feet on the ground tomorrow night, when he lines up in the British under-21 speedway championship final in Norfolk. It will make a pleasant change from his experience in the world final of the competition last year.

Nicholls, 19, confounded medical opinion by finishing fourth in the final, despite riding with four broken toes in his left foot in a sport that requires riders to drag their left foot on the floor as they take corners. The meeting at King's Lynn tomorrow will bring together Britain's leading 16 riders under the age of 21, with the top eight qualifying for the world championship stages.

They are all hoping to follow in the footsteps of past winners Joe Screen, who was victorious in 1993, and Chris Lewis, the 1990 champion, by taking the world under-21 title in the final at Miseno, in the Czech Republic, in August.

Nicholls, who rides for Ipswich, is the youngest rider competing in the newly launched Elite League and has belied his years to produce solid scores in the world's toughest league competition. He is widely regarded as the most promising prospect in England, but superstitious Nicholls shuns such talk.

"I don't like to say too much about what might happen because that guarantees things will go the other way," he said. "I always psyche myself up to do well, but I just don't tell anyone else. Whenever anyone asks me how I'm going to do, I just say I'm going to do my best."

Nicholls, a former British schoolboy champion at speedway's sister sport, grasstrack, is aiming to make up for a mistake in the British final last year which cost him the title.

In his final ride, after four immaculate victories, he trailed in third, believing Stuart Robson, who was second, would overtake the leader, Savalas Clouting. That would have given Nicholls the title, but Clouting kept his lead and



Nicholls has belied his years to excel in the world's toughest league

then beat Nicholls in a deciding run-off.

"I think I have learnt from that," Nicholls said. "I went into the race with the wrong things in my head and it bugged me. Hopefully, now I will pick up on that."

Despite his lack of outward displays of confidence, Nicholls knows he is a talent-

ed rider and only took up the sport professionally after careful consideration. "I've always wanted to be a speedway rider, but I went through a phase when I was about 15 when I had my doubts about going into it properly," he said.

"I wanted to be an accountant. I was thinking about finishing speedway and getting a proper job, but I'm glad I didn't now."

"I enjoy the sport and I want to be the best at it. It must be a big buzz for Billy Hamill [the world senior champion] to say to himself

that he is the best in the world."

The senior title will have to wait, but the junior version is a realistic target. "That would be the ultimate for me. Last year, I doubted myself a little bit but I'm quite good and should be able to do well."

It is as if he feels he has opened up too much by raising his chances when he adds: "I'm not confident, but I have learnt a little bit, so I'm all-out to win." The modest racer's final words are appropriately non-committal: "We'll see what happens."

## RUGBY UNION

## Poppellwell called to account for punching

By David Hands  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NICK POPPLEWELL, the Newcastle and Ireland prop, will appear before a Rugby Football Union (RFU) disciplinary panel next Monday to answer accusations of bringing the game into disrepute. It will be the fourth time that the panel has met since the union revised its disciplinary procedure, and this hearing may well prove the most strongly contested.

The charge arises from the Courage Clubs Championship second division meeting between Bedford and Newcastle on April 5, when Poppellwell punched Scott Murray, the Bedford lock, necessitating his replacement and two visits to hospital before Murray could be assured that there was no permanent damage to one eye.

The incident was seen by a touch judge and Poppellwell was penalised and shown a yellow card. Subsequently, Newcastle fined the player an unspecified amount but, after reviewing a video of the match, Roy Manock, the RFU disciplinary officer, decided that Poppellwell, 33, should appear before a three-man panel at Darlington to determine whether a further penalty should be imposed.

Newcastle are likely to mount a strong defence of their player, who has already been punished on and off the pitch. However, a basic tenet of the RFU procedures, which come into effect when a player has been cited for foul play, when he has been sent off or when he faces a disrepute charge, is that clubs should not effectively "buy" freedom for their players by the imposition of a fine.

Had Poppellwell been sent off, he would have been suspended for 30 days. After listening to Poppellwell and any character witnesses he chooses to bring, the panel may yet impose a suspension or issue a reprimand.

During the past year, disciplinary panels have suspended Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, for six months for pushing Steve Lander, the million match referee, at the end of the Pilkington Cup final last season and Phil Adams, the Bristol lock, for 60 days after his club fined him for foul play. Charles Cusani, the Orrell lock, was reprimanded for accumulating five yellow warning cards, and another such case awaits the panel's attention.

## IN BRIEF

## Illingworth sidelined by shoulder injury

RICHARD Illingworth, the Worcestershire left-arm spinner, will miss the first month of the cricket season after a freak accident in a Bradford League match. Illingworth dislocated a shoulder while playing for Windhill.

David Leatherdale, his Worcestershire team-mate, who was batting at the time for Farsley, said: "He fell awkwardly and was obviously in a lot of pain."

## Scan for Hunte

Rugby league: St Helens will send their centre, Alan Hunte, for a hospital scan to determine the extent of the hamstring injury that threatens to rule him out of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, against Bradford Bulls, at Wembley on Saturday week.

## Drugs ban

Ski jumping: Andreas Goldberger was suspended by the Austrian Ski Federation in Vienna yesterday after his admission that he once took cocaine. Peter Schroecksnadel, president of the federation, said that the suspension would stay in effect until the disciplinary committee of his organisation reaches a decision on how to react.

## Lehman on top

Golf: Tom Lehman, the Open champion, yesterday replaced Greg Norman at the top of the world rankings. Tiger Woods lies fifth. Lehman finished joint fourth in the MCI Classic, which was won by Nick Price, of Zimbabwe.

## Wales win three

Lacrosse: The Wales women's team has beaten Western Australia 18-0, 22-2 and 15-0 in three warm-up games in Perth before the World Cup in Tokyo on Sunday.

## Cooke to retire

Table tennis: Alan Cooke, the England No 3 and losing finalist on Sunday in the Commonwealth championships, is about to retire.

## Costa's title

Tennis: Albert Costa, beat his fellow Spaniard, Albert Portas, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 to win the Barcelona Open yesterday.

## THE TIMES

## IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

## FASHION

Belt up. Grace Bradberry looks at the belted coat as a new look for summer.

## FOOTBALL

Cup Fever. Can Chesterfield overcome troubled Middlesbrough and go all the way to Wembley?

## ARTS

Where now for the Opera House? An interview with Genista McIntosh, new Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House.

## STYLE

How to get A Look.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

If you have four of a side suit in your hand with three in dummy, it is not obvious that there is a ruffing possibility. Good players, however, are on the lookout for it. An example:

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠AK3 ♥Q75 ♦10764 ♣963 ♠10864 ♥K8 ♦J8 ♣J875	♠AK3 ♥Q75 ♦10764 ♣963 ♠AK4	♠J ♥10932 ♦K9532 ♣Q102

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: queen of diamonds

South opened Two Spade, North raised to Two Spades and South went on to Four Spades. After winning the diamond lead, declarer crossed to dummy with a spade and played a heart to the jack and king. West switched to a club. How should declarer play?

The problem with simply drawing trumps is that, if they are 4-1, and the hearts are not 3-3, declarer will make only four spades and two hearts to go with his three minor-suit winners. Correct technique after winning the club is to continue with a heart to the queen, and another heart. If East ruffs, he is ruffing a loser, and declarer may subsequently be able to discard a club from dummy on the ace of hearts, and then take a club ruff.

If West ruffs the third heart,

the trick comes back, as declarer can ruff the fourth heart in dummy. And when West has four trumps that is the only way to make the contract. If West ruffs in on the fourth round, dummy overruffs, otherwise the small heart can be ruffed low. Thus declarer makes five tricks in spades, one high heart and one heart ruff, and three in the minors.

□ The annual marathon at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club was a five-session (165 boards) pairs event, played from noon on Saturday to noon on Sunday, with half-hour breaks between sessions. RESULTS: 1. P Gwynn, W Kapper and M Somerville (58.97 per cent); 2. Jason and Justin Hewitt (58.43 per cent); 3. M Courtney and U Dumas (56 per cent).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RANDY  
a. A scholar at St John's  
b. A tricycle  
c. To canvass

RISTLE  
a. Gristle  
b. To build a bonfire  
c. A Hebridean plough

PRAMNIAN  
a. Ambulatory  
b. Sticky wine  
c. A trochaic metre  
RUMBO  
a. Strong punch  
b. A card game  
c. Christmas cake

Answers on page 52

## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## Computer win

On May 3 in New York, Garry Kasparov commences his six-game challenge against IBM's upgraded Deep Blue computer. IBM scientists are now predicting that their much-improved machine brain, which can now see 1,000 million different chess positions every second, will defeat the human world champion.

The match last year began sensationally, when Kasparov threw caution to the winds and sacrificed material in an effort to land a death blow on the white king. Sadly, complicated tactics are what computers handle best and all of Kasparov's ingenious attacking plays were thwarted by Deep Blue's merciless calculation.

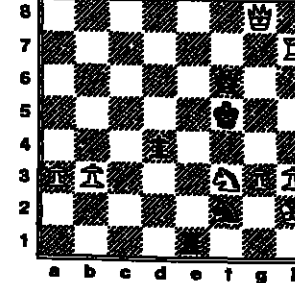
White: Deep Blue  
Black: Garry Kasparov  
Philadelphia 1996

## Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 d4	d5
3 exd5	Qxd5
4 d4	Nf6
5 Nf3	Bg4
6 Be2	e6
7 f3	Bh5
8 O-O	Nc6
9 Be3	Qc8
10 cxd4	Qxd4
11 a3	Ba5
12 Nc3	Qd6
13 Nf5	Bxf5
14 Ne5	Bxe2
15 Qxe2	O-O
16 Rac1	Rac8
17 Bg5	Bb6
18 Bxd6	gxd6
19 Nd4	Rfd8
20 Nxb6	axb6
21 Rfd1	h5
22 Qe3	Qf6

23 d5	Rxd5
24 Rxd5	exd5
25 b3	Kf8
26 Qxb6	Rg8
27 Qc5	d4
28 Nc6	f4
29 Nxb7	Na5
30 Qd5	h3
31 g3	Nd3
32 Rf7	Re8
33 Nd8	Re1+
34 Kh2	Nd2
35 Nd7+	Kg7
36 Ng5+	Kf6
37 Rb7+	Kg6
38 Qc8+	Kf5
39 Nc3	Black resigns

## Diagram of final position



This game, a first in the history of chess, was the first occasion that a human world champion had been beaten by a computer under formal and classic tournament conditions.

## Chinese chess

The Bank of China Cup to determine the UK champion in the Chinese style of chess (Xiangqi), was played over the weekend.

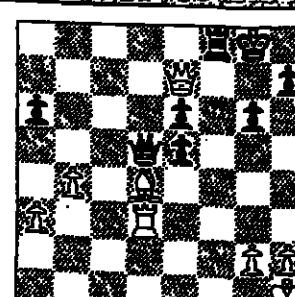
LEADING RESULTS: 1. Chuang Wenming; 2. Chen Fazio; 3. Wang Shun.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Tirard-Rotstein, Cannes 1997, are Black could play 1... exd4 but White would still be in the game. Instead, he found something much stronger. Can you spot his winning continuation?



Solution on page 52



















# The budget is big, but it's not unlimited

The trouble with big, cinematic production values in television drama is that the viewer gets complacent, and forgets there's any sort of budgetary limit at all.

"What wasn't we having a mission?" I asked last night. The 1990s hospital drama *Bramwell* (ITV) had returned, you see, with fabulous music, great editing and lighting, picturesque East End realism and a lot of fusion extras. One's joy was understandably complete. So when David Calder (Robert Bramwell) announced an outing to the Music Hall, one greedily expected to see 400 Sunday-best peppy kings and queens in the audience, all singing along to a woman in a big hat in a mocked-up Hackney Empire. But strangely, no. Not a whiff of greasepaint. Even more disappointing was the last scene — Emma Redgrave (Eleanor) waving to her boyfriend

on a bustling, steamy, whistly station platform. And what was this? No train? Well, I ask you. "What do you want, blood?" Carlton could legitimately yell in the circumstances, and they would be right. Bramwell is the jewel in the crown: a good many costume drama (Lucy Gannon behind it, as usual) with scope for matters of life and death, love and loyalty, as well as regular speeches of more than five words. Kicking off the third series, last night's episode concerned casualties from the local brewery: a man and a boy had fallen into the masher, and were horribly burnt. Upright Eleanor abominated the brewery and refused an offered hand-out ("I find it hard to see how medicine and alcohol can ever be compatible"). Her pragmatic Dad, on the other hand, paid court to the brewery's pretty owner — a rich widow with a twinkle.

Jemma Redgrave has terrific

presence, and as a character, Eleanor is a real heroine — strong yet vulnerable, controlled yet fiery, clever, principled, brave. Last night she saved a couple of lives, made the questionable decision to sleep with her boyfriend, stayed up all night sweeping in a hearth, defied Mrs Costigan proudly in full paragraphs, battled through rain and umbrellas to the station, and superhumanly forgave the boyfriend before his departure for France. What a girl. She lives in the world of Jack the Ripper, but she's not scared of anybody.

When it boils down to it, the appeal of most popular telly is the depiction of fearlessness. We can watch other people be bold on our behalf — whether it's Anne Robinson on *Watchdog* or Eleanor in *Bramwell*. Between trips to the back door (is it locked? Have I already checked it?), we can feel our sinews

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

stiffened by someone else's resolve. Mrs Bernice Cohen is an unlikely heroine, but heroine she is. Channel 4's Mrs Cohen's Money sees this formidable smart little woman marching right up the financial institutions and jabbing them in the soft underbelly. Last night, she challenged the world of insurance, and explained how insurance companies first scare

you into taking "critical illness" and "permanent health" policies and then don't honour them afterwards. It was a one-sided view, but a refreshing one. With the decline of the welfare state, she argued, people will increasingly rely on insurance companies to look after them in times of difficulty. As the biggest financial sector after banks, are they "morally ready" to do that?

The answer, of course, is no. They are just very good at finding chinks in our confidence, and reminding us of mortality. A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers defended the scare tactics of advertising — and he's right. It's true that people generally refuse to anticipate problems. But it's the oldest con trick in the world to sell a product to the client's need. "Bad feet?" "Going bald?" regardless of whether the quick product is the appropriate remedy. The doubly clever thing about insurance is

that if you argue against it, you get caught up in a mad circular world which takes even more of your money. "Worried your insurance won't pay out? Don't lose sleep! Insure against it!"

Talking of people who don't anticipate problems, *The Entertainers* (Channel 4) has had to be pretty tactful in its first two episodes. This cheap documentary series, set in the North East, inhabits the grim, tacky world of the social clubs, and in particular the singers employed by Beverley Ardies. Which problem might have been anticipated? Well, that 14-year-old Darren, of the disco-band group Grove Club, is too young to sing all the gigs. *Wasn't that obvious?* Apparently not. Darren's harmony parts are now taken by an older boy called Neil. It's tough out there in showbiz.

What is fascinating about *The Entertainers* is to see how small-

time success eats up people's lives just as much as big-time. Big-time is relative, in any case. Barry Solomon, we are informed, is a successful singer "on television, in summer seasons and in cabaret all over the world". So, he's damned successful, obviously. But when Barry says he's never at home, and that he's always too busy to attend funerals or weddings, it cruelly illustrates the way a career gets out of hand. If you're Tom Jones, such sacrifices are awful enough; but if you're not Tom Jones, they're tragic.

Meanwhile, the ambitious teenager Tara Lee took her first untrained steps into the limelight at Chertown Social Club in Newcastle. "Did it sound crap?" she coyly asked the agency man afterwards, "Doublet hoping for a spluttering 'Of course not' But he thought about it. 'Nowhere near,' he said, unconvincedly. 'Nowhere near.'"

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (28377)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (0448648)
- 9.05 Election Call Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, answers viewers' questions (9147919)
- 10.00 Style Channel (52993)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (68735)
- 11.00 News (1) and weather (4327483)
- 11.05 The Really Useful Show (7) (980174)
- 11.35 Snooker: World Championship. Dougie Donnelly presents the crucial action as Alan McManus concludes his first-round match with fellow Scot Billy Snodgrass. Nigel Bond begins his campaign against 22-year-old Stephen Lee from Trowbridge (3039358)
- 12.35pm Good Living (947755)
- 1.00 News (1) and weather (19532)
- 1.30 Regional News (50014735)
- 1.45 Neighbours (1) (14736241)
- 2.10 Snooker: World Championship. John Parrott concludes his match with Bradley Jones, the lowest ranked player to qualify for the Crucible this year. Plus: Alan Roddick takes on Brian Morgan (4272483)
- 3.30 Mouse and Mole (9314342) 3.35 Playdays (1) (5781532) 3.55 Arthur (792648) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Herbie Hyde (1) (5957700) 4.35 Pirates (1) (714551) 5.00 Newsround (1) (5782700) 5.10 The Tweenies (1) (9885241)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (14736241)
- 6.00 News (1) and weather (203)
- 6.30 Regional News (1) (95464)
- 6.55 Election Broadcast: Liberal Democrats (653025)
- 7.00 Martin Clunes' Holiday. Uncensored version of the comedian's holiday tour of America's best-loved locations — San Francisco and the Hawaiian Islands of Maui (6754)
- 7.30 EastEnders. Pauline and Nigel become increasingly concerned for the welfare of a friend (1) (445)
- 8.00 Children's Hospital. The staff treat a young boy who trapped the top of his finger in a door and a toddler who somehow got part of a toy telephone stuck up her nose (1) (2174)
- 8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Gary tries to keep his head as Yvonne takes the plunge and changes her career, and Phoebe makes plans for their forthcoming marriage (1) (1209)
- 9.00 News (1) and weather (843551)
- 9.50 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) (59593)
- 10.00 Sports Tonight. Osmond Lyman introduces highlights of the FA Cup semi-final replay between Chesterfield and Middlesbrough at Hillsborough (98374)
- 10.50 The Dirty Dozen (1987) starring Lee Marvin. Second World War drama about a group of death row prisoners who are signed up for a suicide mission. Directed by Robert Aldrich (90318513)
- 1.10am The Cheats. A spoof thriller written by Neil Simon and directed by Robert Moore (1153101)
- 2.40 Weather (8854205)

## BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Cline Cinephiles (204261) 6.25 Classical Sculpture and the Enlightenment (2043396) 6.50 Handel's Messiah (9776993)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (1) and signing (8828174) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1) (4919629) 7.55 Blue Peter (1) (5404803) 8.20 Junior Jungle (1) (3989822) 8.35 The Rascals (1) (9822261)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two: Study Ireland (60193) 9.30 Believe It or Not (2917025) 9.45 Watch (2905280) 10.00 Teletubbies (52975) 10.30 Come Outside (2121087) 10.45 Science Zone (5086483) 11.05 Space Ark (4315648) 11.15 Go for It! (7718453) 11.30 The Animated Shakespeare: The Tempest (2396) 12.00 See Hear! (1) (57629)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (14241) 1.00 Teaching Today (17174) 1.30 Testament: The Bible in Animation (64782) 2.00 Junior Jungle (1) (42788071)
- 2.10 The Village (6471577) 2.35 My Village (7524377) 2.40 The Beauty Spot (5306716) 3.00 News (7398648) 3.05 Campaign Roadshow (1) (9528483) 3.55 News: regional news and weather (6408532)
- 4.00 Snooker: World Championship. John Parrott beats Bradley Jones and Alan Roddick v Brian Morgan (3803)
- 6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (1/2) Will is shot by robbers on his way to a cash machine (1) (797648)
- 6.25 Heartbreak High (1) (357551)
- 7.00 Seven Wonders of the World. In the last of the series, the neuroscientist Professor Steven Pinker makes his personal selection (1) (642919)
- 7.40 Snooker: World Championship. John Higgins v Graham Horne. Plus: the conclusion of Nigel Bond v Stephen Lee (659483)
- 8.30 Food and Drink. Nick Naim and Jamie Lloyd-Owen help a 100-year-old prepare her birthday celebration (1) (2551)
- 9.00 Murder One. Sharon Rooney is called to the dock and a key witness in the Van Alkan case vanishes (1) (2532)
- 10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative Party (1) (791648)
- 10.35 Newsnight (1) (596990)
- 11.30 Election Broadcast (1) (414463)
- 11.35 Snooker: World Championship. Late-night round-up (1) (71261)
- 12.25am Weather (3934507)
- 12.30 Open University: The Learning Zone. Producing electricity (73395) 1.30 Hidden Power (77014) 2.00 A Study of Brazil (11526) 4.00 Using IT in GNVC (20781) 4.30 The production of Goldenshoe (42830) 5.00 Inside Europe (28782) 5.30 Film Production (95859)

## HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (6325396)
- 9.25 Chain Letters (3264919)
- 9.55 Regional News (1) (2386006)
- 10.00 The Time, the Place (98551)
- 10.30 This Morning (6174667)
- 12.20pm Regional News (4008754)
- 12.30 News (1) and weather (9470648)
- 12.54 Film: Crime Stories (70084445) 12.55 Shortland Street (9488667) 1.25 Home and Away (5477342) 1.50 Afternoon Live (6653027) 2.20 Vanessa (50210367) 2.50 Afternoon Live (5053988)
- 3.20 News (1) (7305838) 3.25 Regional News (1) (7304209)
- 3.30 Potamus Park (1) (6841919) 3.40 Wizardia (1) (9492174) 3.50 Bimble's Bucket (1) (9498358) 4.00 Scooby Doo (1) (5973522) 4.15 Hey Arnold! (1) (8665960) 4.40 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (881000)
- 5.10 The House. Following the transformation of a 21st century Victorian house into a home for the 21st century (1237919)
- 5.40 News (1) and weather (940377)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (784174)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (938483)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (670532)
- 6.55 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) (648193)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. The Windsors embark on a desperate search for Kelly (1) (1822)
- 7.30 Family Circus. Knapdale's story the camera follows Knapdale Marshall as she is reunited with her family in Africa after 30 years apart (613)
- 8.00 The Bill. A married man discovers that meeting a girl from a lonely hearts advert has unexpected results (1) (4342)
- 8.30 Loved by You. Kate and Michael reminisce about how they met. With John Gordon-Sinclair and Tanya McDowell. Last in series (1) (6377)
- 9.00 Peak Practice. David treats a stab wound patient. Will it be Eric's cottage or the flames of passion between her and Andrew? Last in series (1) (2071)
- 10.00 News (1) and weather (72894)
- 10.30 Regional News (1) (33042)
- 10.40 The Super (1991) with Joe Pesci and Vincent Gardenia. The landlord of a slum development is forced to experience life from his tenants' point of view. Directed by Rod Denery (59039716)
- 12.20am Dating the Enemy (416205)
- 1.25 Stand and Deliver (8752728)
- 2.25 The Chart Show (1) (5751897)
- 3.25 Coach (1) (4600236)
- 3.50 Football Extra (1) (5382630)
- 4.30 The Time, the Place (1) (46656)
- 5.00 Heirloom (1) (22588)
- 5.30 News (82385)



Gordon-Sinclair, McDowell (8.30pm)

## CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9488667)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1237919)
- 6.25 Central News (795700)
- 6.50-6.55 Lifeline (849822)
- 7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (613)
- 10.40 Film: The Super (79815071)
- 12.25am Collins and Macneil's Movie Club (3041897)
- 12.50 Film: Night on the Town (824149)
- 2.40 In Focus (6432439)
- 3.25 Football Extra (2154656)
- 4.10 Central Jobfinder '97 (1506946)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (2010859)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (4090735)
- 12.55 Home and Away (2775990)
- 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (70447990)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1237919)
- 6.00-6.55 Westcountry Live (458629)
- 7.30-8.00 Animal Passions (613)
- 10.40 Film: The Super (59039716)
- As HTV West except:
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1237919)
- 6.00 Meridian Tonight (784174)
- 6.25-6.55 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (792193)
- 7.30-8.00 The Parish (613)
- 10.40 Film: The Super (59039716)
- 1.25am Stand and Deliver (8752728)
- 2.25 The Chart Show (5751897)
- 3.25 Coach (46000236)
- 3.50 Football Extra (5362630)
- 5.00 Freecore (22588)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (4906342)
- 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9488667)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1237919)
- 6.23 Anglia Weather (598884)
- 6.25-6.55 Anglia News (792193)
- 7.30-8.00 Homemaker (613)
- 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (427551)
- 10.45 Generation X (864803)
- 11.35 Midweek Kick-Off (981464)
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (11087) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (32483) 9.00 Bewitched (55261) 9.30 Film: The Tackman Mystery (45784025) 11.10 Australia Wild (4309445) 11.35 Extreme (3970025) 12.30pm Field Lake (5957) 1.00 Slot Machine (4345045) 1.15 Plinko (1074731) 1.30 Film: Lady Godiva Rides Again (76580822) 3.15 All About Beers (8730716) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (735) 4.00 Fifteen to One (342) 4.30 Taste of the Times (754) 5.00 5 Pump (8700) 5.30 Countdown (626) 6.00 Newyddion (308033) 6.05 Hens (62564) 6.40 Noson Ryas (59484) 7.00 Robyn v Carm (59261) 7.25 Noson Ryas (604728) 8.30 Cardfiddly Elthallod: Celdwady (436990) 8.35 Newyddion (647919) 9.05 Noson Ryas (540990) 10.05 Eitheid (9739087) 10.15 Brookside (334087) 10.50 Park Slides (515899) 11.50 Party Election Broadcast (980807) 11.55 The Long Johns Election Special (644551) 12.10am Election Midnight Special (9188217) 1.40-2.40 Hill Street Blues (4467878)

## ANGLIA



Jack Kevorkian (8.00pm)

- 9.00 Witness: Appointment with Doctor Death. A look at the work of the American Dr Jack Kevorkian. Last in series (1) (2223)
- 10.00 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) (57803)
- 10.05 Blood Oath (1990) with Bryan Brown. A fact-based drama about an Australian army lawyer trying to bring Japanese war criminals to justice. Directed by Stephen Wallace (1) (13462613)
- 12.10am Midnight Special. Political discussion series (9182217)
- 1.40 Building Jack (1934, b/w) with Jack Hulbert, Ralph Richardson and Fay Wray. A vintage comedy thriller from the Bulldog Drummond series. Directed by Walter Forde (7347168)
- 3.00 The Oracle (1952, b/w). A comedy with Michael Medwin as a reporter who discovers an oracle that predicts the future at the bottom of a well. Directed by Pennington Richards (33656)
- 4.30 Riders of the Dawn. Spanish drama serial (1) (3368052)
- 5.30-6.00 Backdate (1) (1) (5890781)

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00am Sesame Street (11087)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (32483)
- 9.00 Bewitched (1) (1) (55261)
- 9.30 The Tackman Mystery (1954, b/w) starring John Justin and Margaret Leighton. A thriller about a man writing the biography of a dead pilot. Directed by Wendy Toye (45784025)
- 11.10 Australia Wild. Animal life in Oz (4309445) 11.35 Extreme (1) (1) (3970025) 12.30pm Light Lunch (98193) 1.30 Islanders. A 1939 GPO documentary (22389684)
- 1.50 Watch Your Stern (1960, b/w) A nautical comedy with Kenneth Connor, Noel Purcell and Leslie Phillips. Directed by Gerald Thomas (1) (42597648)
- 3.30 Collectors' Lot. Gerry Anderson on Lady Penelope and Parker from Thunderbirds (1) (735) 4.00 Fifteen to One (1) (342) 4.30 Countdown (1) (754) 5.00 Ricki Lake (1) (8700) 5.30 Per Rescue (1) (826)
- 6.00 Friends: The One with the Dozen Luggage Pieces. Has some bad news for Rachel about her Italian boyfriend (1) (78216)
- 6.25 Ant and Dec Unzipped with guests Eddie Izzard, Jo Brand, Simon Gregson and Jayne Middlemiss (790735)
- 6.55 Fresh Pop (64735)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (153731)
- 7.55 Thatcher's Children (1) (409071)
- 8.00 The Great Owl of the Mountains. The life cycle of the American Great Owl (1) (2984)
- 8.30 Brookside. Susanah is overcome with grief while Mick may have the answer to his financial problems (1) (4919)
- 9.00 Witness: Appointment with Doctor Death. A look at the work of the American Dr Jack Kevorkian. Last in series (1) (2223)
- 10.00 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) (57803)
- 10.05 Blood Oath (1990) with Bryan Brown. A fact-based drama about an Australian army lawyer trying to bring Japanese war criminals to justice. Directed by Stephen Wallace (1) (13462613)
- 12.10am Midnight Special. Political discussion series (9182217)
- 1.40 Building Jack (1934, b/w) with Jack Hulbert, Ralph Richardson and Fay Wray. A vintage comedy thriller from the Bulldog Drummond series. Directed by Walter Forde (7347168)
- 3.00 The Oracle (1952, b/w). A comedy with Michael Medwin as a reporter who discovers an oracle that predicts the future at the bottom of a well. Directed by Pennington Richards (33656)
- 4.30 Riders of the Dawn. Spanish drama serial (1) (3368052)
- 5.30-6.00 Backdate (1) (1) (5890781)

## CHANNEL 5

- 6.00am 5 News Early (7557716)
- 7.30 Havalakooze (2671714)
- 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2295803)
- 8.30 WideWorld: Heaven's Delight. A study of the link between art and religion in 14th-century Italy. Focusing on the Palazzo Pubblico, seat of the government of Siena during the 1500's (2294174)
- 9.00 Espresso (5294025)
- 10.00 Exclusive (1) (6502174)
- 10.30 Hot Property (1) (1) (2214938)
- 11.00 Leeza Chat show (9434822)
- 11.50 Double Espresso (45008667)
- 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (2289901)
- 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (9189006)
- 1.00 5 News Update (92039343)
- 1.55 Sunset Beach (6204716)
- 2.00 5's Company (7583811)
- 3.30 Baby of the Bride (1991) with Rue McClanahan and Ted Shackelford. A comedy about a woman and her young husband discovering she is pregnant at the same time as his daughter. Directed by Bill Bobb (1482445)
- 5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (14975071)
- 5.25 Election Broadcast: Liberal Party (14874342)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent Game show (1151209)
- 6.00 Whistle Quiz (1141822)
- 6.30 Family Affairs. Melanie is bored with living at home and suggests sharing a flat with Duncan. With Cordelia Bugeja (1) (1132174)
- 7.00 Exclusive Showbiz news (1058358)
- 7.30 Waterland. A study of the rainforest, which inhabits the lochs of the Scottish Highlands and Islands (7268984)
- 7.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (1) (5617919)
- 8.00 Fame and Fortune. Following designer John Rocha as he prepares to show his 1997 collection (1088006)
- 8.30 5 News (1974631)
- 9.00 Lone Wolf McQuade (1983) with Chuck Norris, David Carradine and Barbara Carrera. Action adventure about a maverick Texas Ranger with karate skills. Directed by Steve Carver (32779025)
- 10.50 Exclusive Extra (5886342)
- 11.00 The Jack Docherty Show. The guest is the former EastEnders turned singer Michelle Gayle (9341777)
- 11.40 The Comedy Show. Jo Brand, Julian Clary and Mark Thomas recall their early days as stand-up comedians (2349280)
- 12.10am Live and Dangerous. Including IndyCar and a motorsport round-up (16478511)
- 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6321781)
- 5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (1) (5179762)



Cordelia Bugeja (6.30pm)

## For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

## SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (62193) 6.00 Rags and Riches (1) (51358) 10.00 Another World (19754) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (60887) 12.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 1.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 2.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 3.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 4.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 5.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 6.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 7.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 8.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 9.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 10.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 11.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754) 12.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (19754)

## EUROSPORT

- 7.00am Cycling (40009) 8.30 Football (10039) 9.00 Live Tennis (841667) 9.00pm Motorcycling (3714) 9.30 Tractor Pulling (71716) 9.30 Football (5859) 7.00 Live Football (10039) 9.00 Live Tennis (841667) 9.00pm Motorcycling (3714) 9.30 Tractor Pulling (71716) 9.30 Football (5859) 7.00 Live Football (10039) 9.00 Live Tennis (841667) 9.00pm Motorcycling (3714) 9.30 Tractor Pulling (71716) 9.30 Football (5859)

## UK GOLD

- 7.00am Tellytack 7.30 Neighbours 8.00 Countdown 8.25 EastEnders 8.50 Robin's Nest 9.30 Don't Wait Up 10.00 Robin's Nest 10.30 The Sullivan (140034) 11.00 Casualty (8820445) 11.00pm Countdown (4577869) 12.30 Newyddion (308033) 1.00 EastEnders (191919) 1.35 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 2.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 3.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 4.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 5.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 6.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 7.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 8.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 9.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 10.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 11.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920) 12.30 The Little Denmark Show (2090920)

## GRANADA SHOP

- 6.00am The Nipper Factor 6.30 Calzoncio (211042) 7.00 Coronation Street (4723483) 7.30 Families (4705000) 8.00 Surprise, Surprise (454803) 9.00 The Professionals (5036803) 10.00 The Professionals (5036803) 11.00 Doctor on the Go (5307071) 11.30 With These Walls (472838) 12.00 Coronation Street (4723483) 12.30 Families (4705000) 1.00 Surprise, Surprise (454803) 1.30 The Professionals (5036803) 2.00 The Professionals (5036803) 2.30 The Professionals (5036803) 3.00 The Professionals (5036803) 3.30 The Professionals (5036803) 4.00 The Professionals (5036803) 4.30 The Professionals (5036803) 5.00 The Professionals (5036803) 5.30 The Professionals (5036803) 6.00 The Professionals (5036803) 6.30 The Professionals (5036803) 7.00 The Professionals (5036803) 7.30 The Professionals (5036803) 8.00 The Professionals (5036803) 8.30 The Professionals (5036803) 9.00 The Professionals (5036803) 9.30 The Professionals (5036803) 10.00 The Professionals (5036803) 10.30 The Professionals (5036803) 11.00 The Professionals (5036803) 11.30 The Professionals (5036803) 12.00 The Professionals (5036803) 12.30 The Professionals (5036803) 1.00 The Professionals (5036803) 1.30 The Professionals (5036803) 2.00 The Professionals (5036803) 2.30 The Professionals (5036803) 3.00 The Professionals (5036803) 3.30 The Professionals (5036803) 4.00 The Professionals (5036803) 4.30 The Professionals (5036803) 5.00 The Professionals (5036803) 5.30 The Professionals (5036803) 6.00 The Professionals (5036803) 6.30 The Professionals (5036803) 7.00 The Professionals (5036803) 7.30 The Professionals (5036803) 8.00 The Professionals (5036803) 8.30 The Professionals (5036803) 9.00 The Professionals (5036803) 9.30 The Professionals (5036803) 10.00 The Professionals (5036803) 10.30 The Professionals (5036803) 11.00 The Professionals (5036803) 11.30 The Professionals (5036803) 12.00 The Professionals (5036803) 12.30 The Professionals (5036803) 1.00 The Professionals (5036803) 1.30 The Professionals (5036803) 2.00 The Professionals (5036803) 2.30 The Professionals (5036803) 3.00 The Professionals (5036803) 3.30 The Professionals (5036803) 4.00 The Professionals (5036803) 4.30 The Professionals (5036803) 5.00 The Professionals (5036803) 5.30 The Professionals (5036803) 6.00 The Professionals (5036803) 6.30 The Professionals (5036803) 7.00 The Professionals (5036803) 7.30 The Professionals (5036803) 8.00 The Professionals (5036803) 8.30 The Professionals (5036803) 9.00 The Professionals (5036803) 9.30 The Professionals (5036803) 10.00 The Professionals (5036803) 10.30 The Professionals (5036803) 11.00 The Professionals (5036803) 11.30 The Professionals (5036803) 12.00 The Professionals (5036803) 12.30 The Professionals (5036803) 1.00 The Professionals (5036803) 1.30 The Professionals (5036803) 2.00 The Professionals (5036803) 2.30 The Professionals (5036803) 3.00 The Professionals (50368



